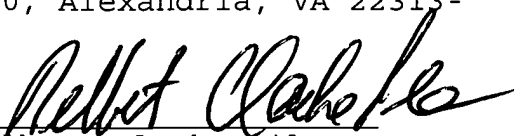


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 24, 2005.


Delbert Clarke Pile

CP004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : DELBERT CLARKE PILE

SERIAL NO. : 10/791,330

FILED : MARCH 2, 2004

FOR : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR A RETRACTABLE
BASKETBALL BACKBOARD AND HOOP ASSEMBLY

EXAMINER : M. CHAMBERS

GROUP : 3711

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

I, Delbert Clarke Pile, hereby declare and say the following:

1. I am a citizen of the United States of America and I reside at 430 North Shore Road, Hadley, New York 12835.

2. I am the inventor of the above-identified patent application.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

3. I invented the subject matter disclosed in the above-identified application in the United States of America.

Conception of the Invention Of Claims 1 and 21

4. I have caused to be filed, concurrently with this Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, an Amendment and Response to Office Action in response to the Office Action, mailed July 28, 2005, in the above-identified application.

5. I conceived the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21, as amended and as set forth in the above-referenced Amendment and Response to Office Action, prior to October 12, 1999, which date is the effective date of the GarageScape reference.

6. I conceived the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21, as amended and as set forth in the above-referenced Amendment and Response to Office Action, in the United States of America.

7. I memorialized my invention, including the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21, in a logbook.

8. I submit herewith copies of my logbook records, with dates redacted, which are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. Exhibit A provides documentation of my conception of the invention of each of independent Claims 1 and 21 prior to October 12, 1999, which date is the effective date of the GarageScape reference.

10. Regarding my conception of the invention of independent Claim 1 prior to October 12, 1999, Exhibit A, on pages 1 through 5, provides clear evidence of my conception of a basketball backboard and hoop apparatus, comprising a basketball backboard and hoop assembly, a support arm for supporting the basketball backboard and hoop assembly, and a support element, wherein the support element provides support for the support arm, wherein the support arm is longitudinally moved along the support element, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved in the direction of the longitudinal movement of the support arm along a horizontal plane or a nearly horizontal plane from a first position inside a structure to a second position outside the structure, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved to an in-use position.

11. Regarding my conception of the invention of independent Claim 21 prior to October 12, 1999, Exhibit A, on pages 1 through 5, provides clear evidence of my conception of a basketball backboard and hoop apparatus, comprising a basketball backboard and hoop assembly, a support arm for supporting the basketball backboard and hoop assembly, and a guiding device, wherein the support arm is longitudinally moved along the guiding device, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved in the direction of the longitudinal movement of the support arm through or along a horizontal plane or axis or

a nearly horizontal plane or axis, from a first position inside a structure to a second position outside the structure, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved to an in-use position.

12. Prior to October 12, 1999, which date is the effective date of the GarageScape reference, I met with my daughters Jennifer Pile and Emily Pile to have them witness my conception of the invention.

13. During the above-referenced meeting with my daughters, I explained to each of them, verbally and with reference to the documentation in Exhibit A, my invention which included the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21.

14. During the above-referenced meeting with my daughters, I provided each of my daughters with the documentation of Exhibit A for them to review.

15. Each of my daughters reviewed the documentation of Exhibit A.

16. Upon explaining my invention to both of my daughters and having them examine the documentation of Exhibit A, each of my daughters acknowledged to me that they understood my invention, including the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21.

17. To evidence witnessing my conception of my invention, including the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21, each of my daughters signed and dated a witness

statement which provided that they each ". . . witnessed the above invention and understood its operation and purpose."

18. The signatures of each of my daughters, Jennifer Pile and Emily Pile, with dates redacted, are provided at page 21 of Exhibit A.

19. The date on which each of my daughters, Jennifer Pile and Emily Pile, witnessed my invention, including the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21, was prior to October 12, 1999, which date is the effective date of the GarageScape reference.

20. The documentation of Exhibit A, as memorialized by myself in my logbook, and as witnessed by each of my daughters, Jennifer Pile and Emily Pile, provides clear evidence of my conception of the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21 prior to October 12, 1999, which date is the effective date of the GarageScape reference.

Reduction to Practice of the Invention of Claims 1 and 21

21. I constructively reduced to practice my invention, including the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21, by filing a U.S. Provisional Patent Application, which was assigned U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/190,381, and which was filed on March 17, 2000.

Due Diligence

22. I used due diligence, from a time prior to October 12, 1999, which date is the effective date of the GarageScape reference, to constructively reduce to practice of the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21, by the filing of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/190,381 on March 17, 2000.

23. From prior to October 12, 1999 through March 17, 2000, I was employed full-time as a Senior Vice President and New York Regional Manager at O'Brien Kreitzberg in New York, New York.

24. In my position, I was responsible for managing and overseeing the O'Brien Kreitzberg New York office.

25. My responsibilities included managing and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the New York Office, each of the construction sites throughout New York State which were managed by O'Brien Kreitzberg, and its approximately 200 employees.

26. On January 27, 1999, I purchased a book entitled "PATENT IT YOURSELF" by Patent Attorney David Pressman, published by Nolo Press.

27. A copy of my receipt, dated January 27, 1999, evidencing my purchase of the book entitled "PATENT IT YOURSELF", with my credit card information redacted, is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

28. A copy of the front cover of the book entitled "PATENT IT YOURSELF" is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

29. From January 1999, through a time prior to October 12, 1999, I carefully studied the book entitled "PATENT IT YOURSELF" in order to provide me with the necessary information needed so that I could prepare and file a patent application for my invention, including the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21, by myself and without a patent attorney.

30. At a time prior to October 12, 1999, I realized that I would need to retain a patent attorney, and I made the decision to do so.

31. Prior to October 12, 1999, which date is the effective date of the GarageScape reference, I sought legal advice and assistance to file a patent application for my invention, including the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21.

32. Prior to October 12, 1999, I began contacting individuals whom I believed could provide me with the necessary legal advice and assistance needed to file a patent application for my invention, including the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21.

33. One of these individuals referred me to Raymond A. Joao.

34. I contacted Mr. Joao.

35. On October 27, 1999, I retained the services of Mr.

Joao who was a Registered Patent Attorney employed by the Law Firm of Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein & Schlissel, PC. in Mineola, New York. A copy of the Retainer Agreement between myself and Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein & Schlissel, PC., containing my signature, is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

36. From October 27, 1999 through March 17, 2000, the date of the filing of my U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/190,381, I engaged in a regular and systematic dialog with Mr. Joao, including having a number of telephone conferences and at least four meetings with Mr. Joao.

37. The purpose of the above-referenced regular and systematic dialog, telephone conferences, and the at least four meetings, was directed to the preparation and filing of my U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/190,381.

38. I memorialized some of these activities in my logbook.

39. My logbook records describing and/or evidencing my activities from the period from October 27, 1999 through March 17, 2000, are attached hereto as Exhibit E.

40. I used due diligence, from prior to October 12, 1999, which date is the effective date of the GarageScape reference, to March 17, 2000, to constructively reduce to practice my invention, including the invention of pending independent Claims 1 and 21, by filing my U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/190,381.

41. A copy of my U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/190,381, filed on March 17, 2000, is attached hereto as Exhibit F.

42. A copy of the Filing Receipt for U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/190,381 is attached hereto as Exhibit G.

43. I understand, and I am warned, that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the above-identified application or any patent issuing thereon.

44. I understand that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Respectfully Submitted,


Delbert Clarke Pile

October 24, 2005

Delbert Clarke Pile
430 North Shore Road
Hadley, New York 12835
(518) 863-8673



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 24, 2005.

Delbert Clarke Pile
Delbert Clarke Pile

CP004

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EXAMINER : M. CHAMBERS

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE
OF THE EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Sir:

This is Applicant's Statement of the Substance of the Examiner Interview of August 23, 2005.

During the Examiner Interview of August 23, 2005, the 35 U.S.C. §103 obviousness rejections in the Office Action, dated July 28, 2005, the Garagescape reference, and U.S. Patent Nos.

4,934,696 and 3,452,984, were discussed.

Entry of this Applicant's Statement of the Substance of the Examiner Interview is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,


Delbert Clarke Pile

October 24, 2005

Delbert Clarke Pile
430 North Shore Road
Hadley, New York 12835
(518) 863-8673

EXHIBIT

A

THE "INVENTION"

1

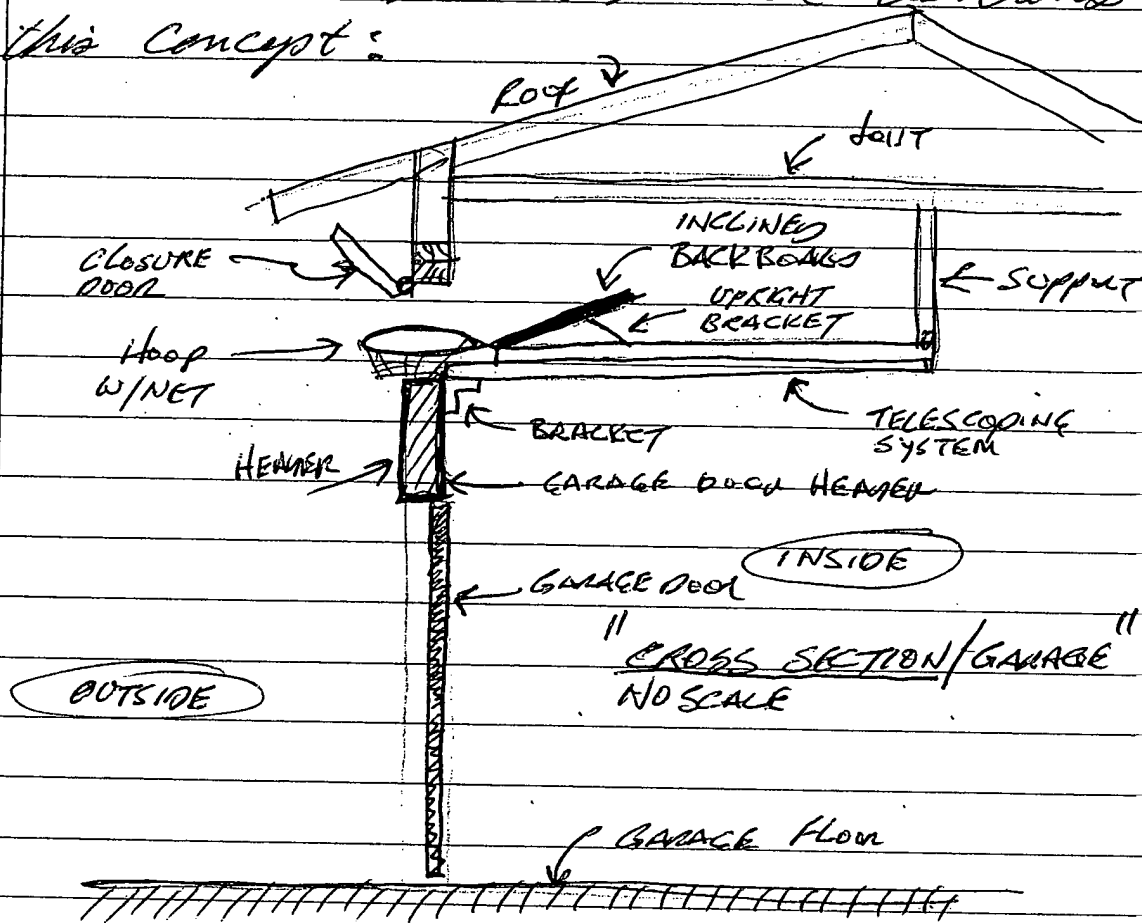
A HIDDEN - INDOOR/OUTDOOR BASKETBALL BACKBOARD AND GOAL

INVENTED BY D. CLARKE PILE

HISTORY: About 10 years ago, I was thinking about the difficulty I was having in my tract housing development. Specifically, I wanted to put in a basketball backboard and hoop; however our homeowners association wouldn't allow it. I wasn't able to put one in. I came up with an idea to design one (a backboard and goal system) which would be hidden in the garage, above the garage door, which could extend through the wall, extend itself for play, and then retract back into the garage behind a hidden door. The idea was for this backboard to "telescope" to the outside for play and then telescope in when finished, whereby it wouldn't be permanently attached to the building's exterior -- and it therefore wouldn't violate the housing

[illegible]

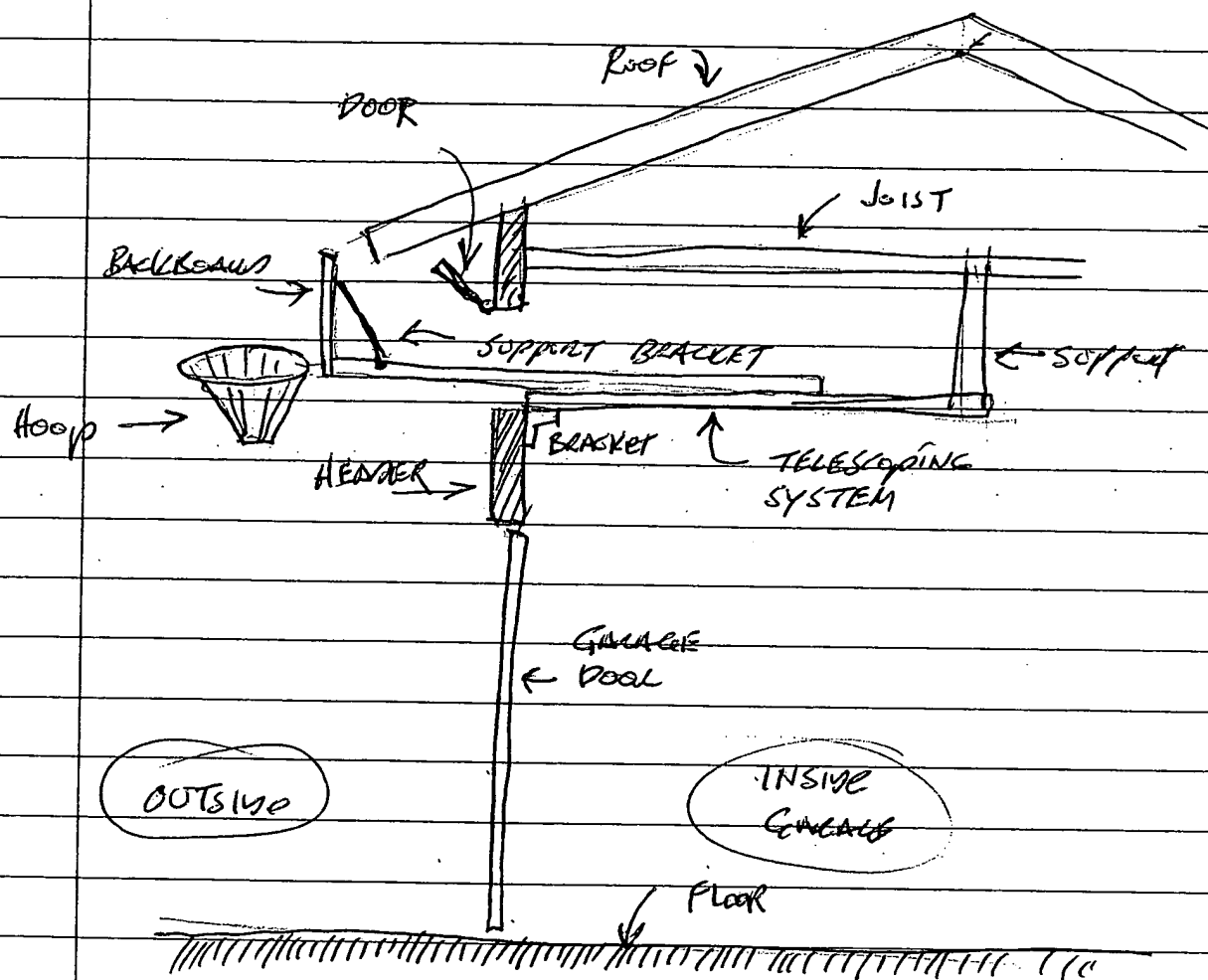
association rules. I felt an invention would be in order because many homeowners could simply have a lockboard for their family. Below is a crude sketch which describes this concept:



BASKET BALL SYSTEM COMING OUT
OF THE GARAGE

[illegible]

THE FOLLOWING SHOWS THE SYSTEM NOW
IN THE OUTSIDE "READY TO PLAY" POSITION



GARAGE SECTION
NO SCALE

8

I spent many years thinking about this invention. Around [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], I visited the Sunnyvale, CA Patent office. My purpose was to see if any similar idea had been patented. It was obvious to me that this search was going to be difficult because the "Class" and "sub class" search would take a great amount of time -- more than I had that day. I would have to hire someone to perform the search or do it myself in Washington D.C.

Around [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], I and my family visited my parents who rented a place in Gathersburg MO. During that visit, My father and my son (Brian) went to the U.S. patent office in Arlington -- we conducted the search then. We found one patent (a man in El Toro, CA) which tried to solve the problem of "exposed" basketball back boards. I will continue writing later.

continued: This El Toro patent tried to solve the problem with having exposed backboards. This patent # 4,934,696 had several limitations. They were:

1. It imbalanced the garage door
2. It could require a prop to hold the garage door open
3. I'm sure that the garage door and spring manufacturer would not recommend this attachment
4. It could hit the car upon closure
5. It wait with for roll up overhead doors
6. It reduced space in the garage for auto parking
7. It could cause a safety problem to others during closure

Following this search at the U.S. Patent office, many years passed without actions on my part to develop the telescoping idea shown on the previous pages 3 and 5. Although the concept

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is fine, and I believe it to work properly, I didn't pursue it further. Specifically, I felt it was going to cost more to build than people would want to spend. For example, lots of steel fabrication, lot of bearings and supports. As a result, I spent many years after only thinking about way to make the telescoping idea more ideal (countless nights while sleeping) I will elaborate at my next log entry as to why I am now preparing this log entry book.

Continuing from above, not long ago, I developed a simpler way to develop the "hidden-top" idea. I will detail this concept below which I believe to be greatly improved and now viable as a patent idea. I wish to file a preliminary patent application within the next few months.

I'm currently writing this log while

On the patio, in the evening, at the El San Juan hotel. My daughters Emily and Jennifer are with me on this trip. I will show them the sketches below and have them sign and witness my invention. My documentation begins below:

IDEA: A basketball hoop and backboard which is an:

- 1) Indoor and outdoor system
- 2) Attaches to the inside of a structure (i.e. like a garage) and shuttles back and forth through a hole in the wall. An operable cover (such as a door) conceals the opening.

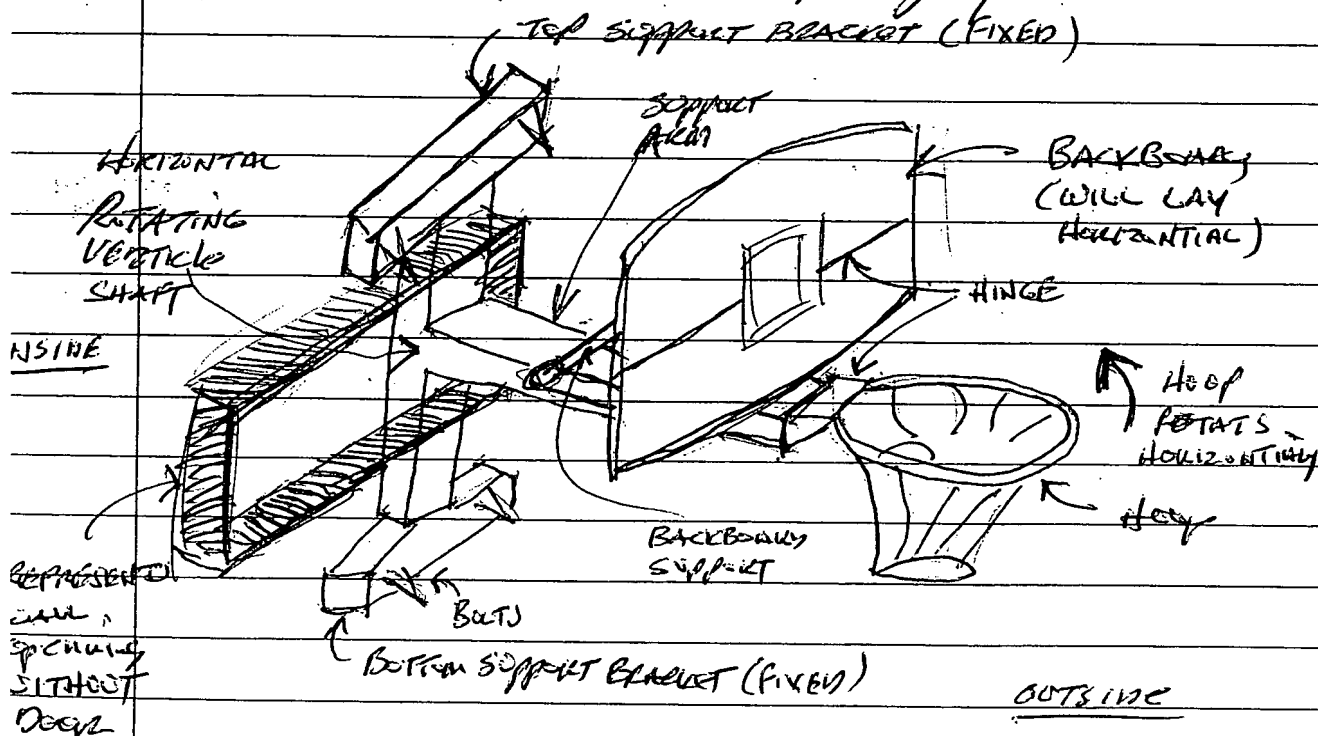
ADVANTAGE: Many homeowners' communities don't allow permanent basketball boards mounted on the buildings exterior. This concept allows the attachment on the structures' inside thus allowing a non permanent playing board on the outside which is



Easily concealed on the buildings interior. Also, this can be an interior / exterior system for use inside a structure on rainy or snowy days. I will mention that the buildings exterior will look greatly enhanced with this system.

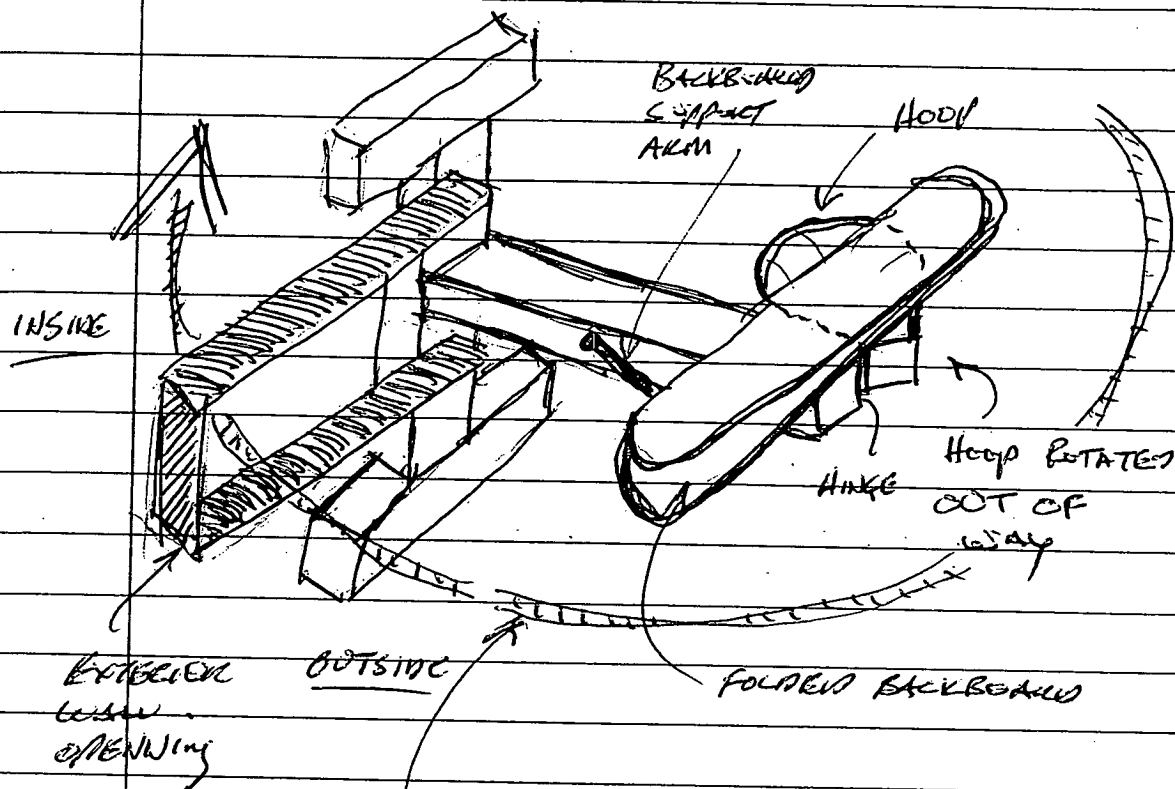
SKETCHES

1. Sketch showing outside play of backboard



(NOT TO ANY SCALE)

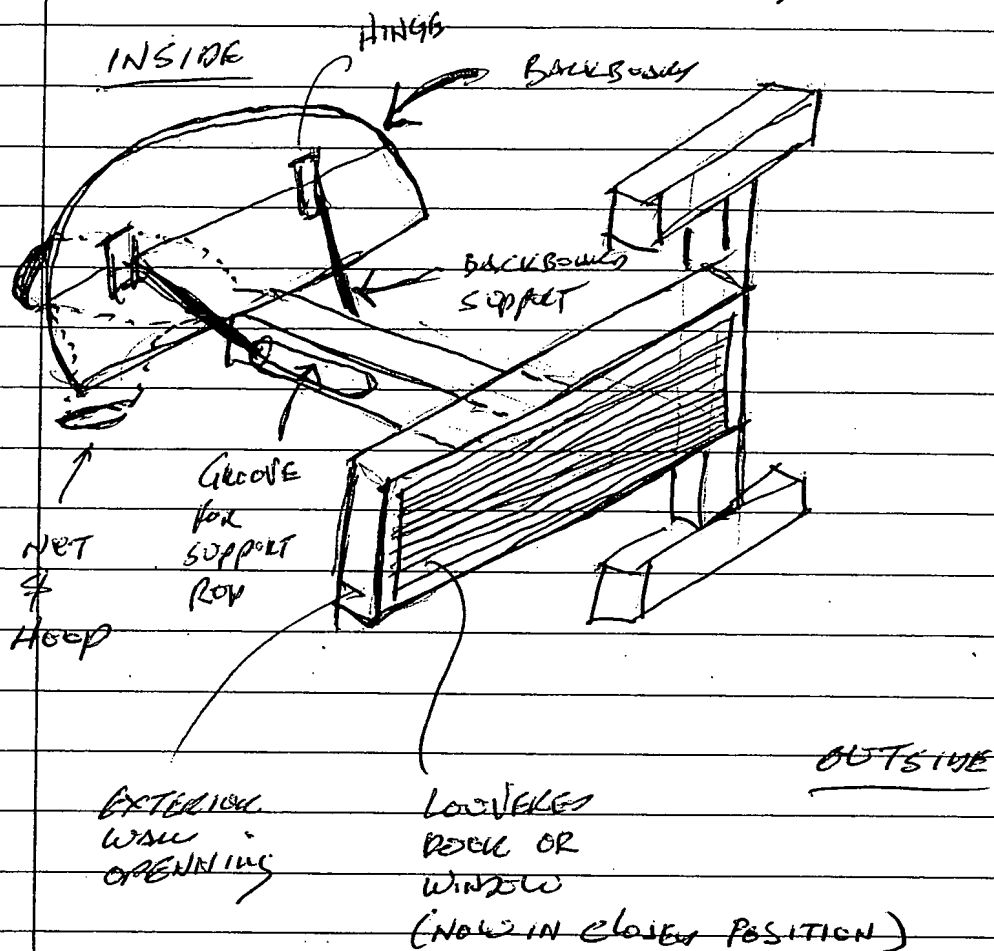
2. SKETCH SHOWING BACKBOARD ASSEMBLY
COMPACTING IN SIZE TO STORE "INSIDE"
OF STRUCTURE.



8

P

2. SKETCH SHOWING INNER RING



POSSIBLE CLAIMS

1. An indoor and outdoor backboard support system
2. A folding backboard to minimize hole in exterior wall opening

3. A hoop which rotates to minimize hole opening
4. A backboard which shuttles in and out through its opening
5. A door or window type covering
6. A totally hidden system

I witnessed the above invention and understood its operation and purpose

SIGNATURE Jennifer Pile SIGNATURE Emily Pile
 we Jennifer Pile DATE [REDACTED] NAME Emily Pile DATE [REDACTED]

EXHIBIT

B

BORDERS BOOKS SHOP

1041 HIGH RIDGE ROAD
STANFORD CT 06905
(203) 968-9700
STORE: 0038 REG: 01/01 TRANS: 4152
SALE: 01/27/1999 EMP: 00425

PATENT IT YOURSELF-E07
5480257 BP T 44.95
Subtotal 44.95
CT 6.0% SALES TAX 2.70
Total 47.65
AMEX 47.65

ACCT: # 75
AUTH: 208609
NAME: FILE/DC

CUSTOMER COPY

01/27/1999 07:33PM

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT BORDERS
PLEASE ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL EVENTS




EXHIBIT C



PATENT IT

YOURSELF

by Patent Attorney David Pressman

- PATENT PROCEDURES FROM A TO Z
- PATENT SEARCHES ONLINE AND OFF
- LATEST PATENT OFFICE RULES

7TH EDITION

The World's
BESTSELLING
Patent Guide

The best roll-up-your-sleeves guide for filers who don't want to pay a ransom.

Inc. Magazine

EXHIBIT

D

LAW OFFICES
MELTZER, LIPPE, GOLDSTEIN & SCHLISSEL, P.C.

190 WILLIS AVENUE, MINEOLA, NY 11501

TELEPHONE: (516) 747-0300

FACSIMILE: (516) 747-0653

INTERNET: www.mlg.com

PLEASE REPLY TO MINEOLA

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BARRY J. FISHER	FRANK J. MARTINEZ
MADELYN SPATT SHULMAN	

[ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT]

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JEFFREY A. FLEISCHMAN°	EITAN TABAK
MARC T. FINER	DEBRA A. CLEMENT
MICHAEL H. MASRI	

ALSO ADMITTED IN:

* MA	§ FL
° NJ	‡ VT & ISRAEL
† NJ & CT	* REGISTERED PATENT ATTY
° CT	

October 27, 1999

Mr. Clarke Pile
560 West 43rd Street
Apt. 29B
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Pile:

You have requested that Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein & Schlissel represent you in general patent and intellectual property matters. Our patent and intellectual property fees will be based on an hourly rate of \$300.00 per hour and will be handled by Raymond A. Joao. The above legal fees do not include disbursements and expenses.

You are asked to pay us an initial retainer of \$3,500. Our firm has an intake committee which must approve the terms of your engagement of us. If the Committee does not accept the terms of the engagement and we are unable to agree upon revised terms, the initial retainer will be returned to you.

You agree that our invoices will be paid by you within twenty (20) days of the billing date stated on each invoice and that any past due amounts will accrue late charges (the rate is 1½% per month and is subject to change by us), calculated from the original invoice date.

You and the firm are agreeing to a Credit Limit for your matters. The credit limit is \$3,500. If at any time, the aggregate of (i) all outstanding bills rendered to you which are unpaid and (ii) the value of all unbilled time for services rendered by the Firm and the amount of all unbilled disbursements incurred in connection therewith, exceeds the Credit Limit you will

4. If the Firm is successful in any proceeding to recover any sum due to the Firm, you hereby agree that you shall be responsible for the payment of reasonable attorney's fees and costs and disbursements incurred in connection therewith.

5. The arbitration of any dispute will be conducted in accordance with the procedures in this Agreement and the American Arbitration Association Rules as in effect on the date of the Engagement. In the event of a conflict, the provisions of this Agreement will control.

Any issue concerning the extent to which any dispute is subject to arbitration, or concerning the applicability, interpretation, or enforceability of these procedures, including any contention that all or part of these procedures are invalid or unenforceable, shall be governed by the Federal Arbitration Act and resolved by the arbitrator. No potential arbitrator may serve unless he or she has agreed in writing to abide and be bound by these procedures.

The arbitrator shall have no power to award punitive damages or any other damages not measured by the prevailing party's actual damages, and the parties expressly waive their right to obtain such damages in arbitration or in any other forum. In no event, even if any other portion of these provisions is held to be invalid or unenforceable, shall the arbitrator have power to make an award or impose a remedy that could not be made or imposed by a court deciding the matter in the same jurisdiction.

No discovery will be permitted in connection with the arbitration unless it is expressly authorized by the arbitrator upon a showing of substantial need by the party seeking discovery.

All aspects of the arbitration shall be treated as confidential. Neither the parties nor the arbitrator may disclose the existence, content or results of the arbitration, except as necessary to comply with legal or regulatory requirements. Before making any such disclosure, a party shall give written notice to all other parties and shall afford such parties a reasonable opportunity to protect their interests.

The result of the arbitration will be binding on the parties, and judgment on the arbitrator's award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

RAJ/mb

MELTZER, LIPPE, GOLDSTEIN & SCHLISSEL, P.C.

be promptly notified that your account has exceeded the credit limit. When you have exceeded the Credit Limit, we will call you and ask for an immediate payment. You agree to make an immediate payment to bring your account well under the Credit Limit.

In the event that any bills rendered by the Firm are not paid when due, you hereby give your consent to our (i) immediately ceasing any and all work being performed by us for your account and/or (ii) our withdrawal from any further representation of you.

In the event of any dispute arising out of or relating to this agreement and/or the legal services rendered hereunder, the same shall be determined by binding arbitration in Nassau County, Long Island, New York, by an arbitrator chosen by the President of the Nassau County Bar Association who has significant experience in the field in which the legal services were rendered.

The Miscellaneous Rules attached hereto form a part of this Agreement.

We look forward to serving your legal needs and thank you for retaining our Firm.

THIS ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS
ENTERED INTO THIS ____ DAY
OF _____, 1999.

MELTZER, LIPPE, GOLDSTEIN,
& SCHLISSEL, P.C.

X *A. Lippe*

By: _____

Credit Limit \$ 3,500.00 X *(initials)* (client initials)

I, *P. Clarke Pyle*, do hereby guaranty unconditionally the payment obligations of _____ pursuant to the aforementioned Engagement Agreement.

X *A. Lippe*

EXHIBIT E

3. A flap which rotates to
minimize hole opening
4. A lockboard which shuttles in
and out through its opening
5. A door or window type covering
6. A totally hidden system

I witnessed the above invention and
understood its operation and purpose

SIGNATURE Jennifer Pile

SIGNATURE Emily Pile

NAME Jennifer Pile

DATE

NAME Emily Pile

DATE

E

10/27/99 • Meeting with patent Attorney Ray for

✓ Detailed description of all components
of system

✓ Sketch of components of system or
what could be used tub steel →
composite

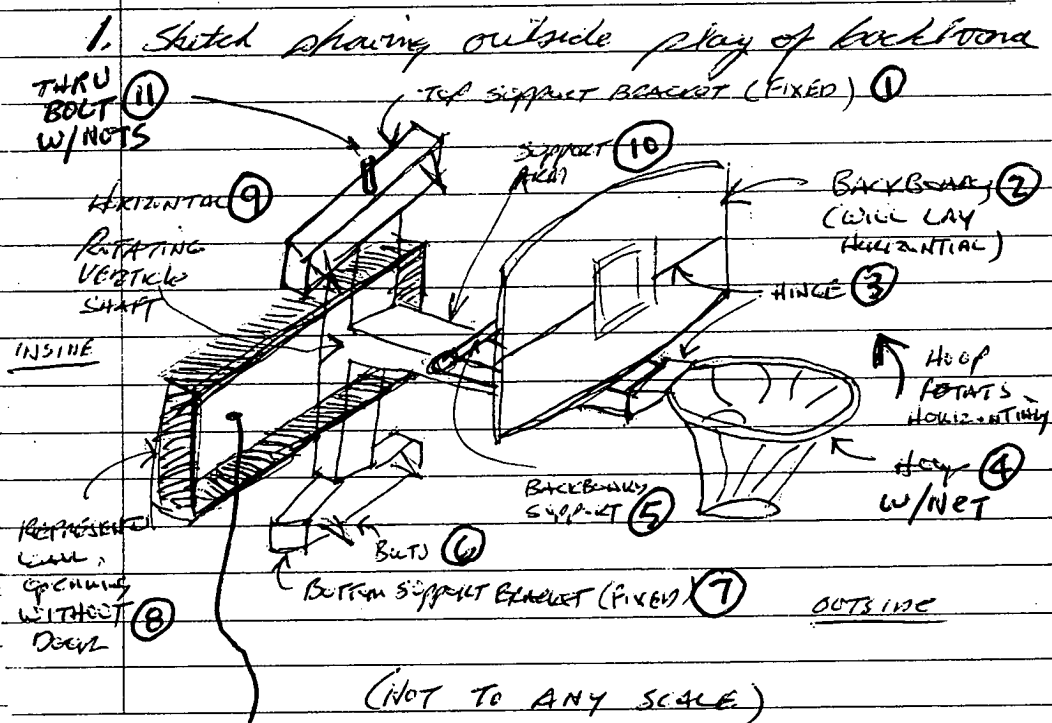
✓ First sketch is an abstract

[illegible]

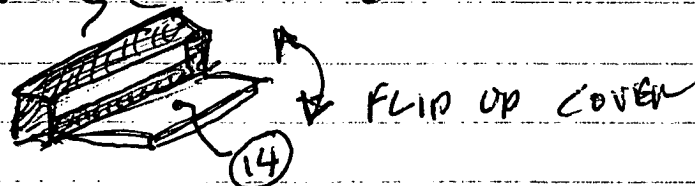
- Any thing that is special -
purity etc on substitutes
- what makes it special,
- Describe how it is used.
- look on web site.

11/30/99 NOTES FOR RAY LOAD (TRANSMITTERS 12/2/99)

- 1) Detailed description of all system components
- 2) Sketch of system components and material substitutions
- 3) Special features regarding system
- 3) Describe how it is used/WORKS



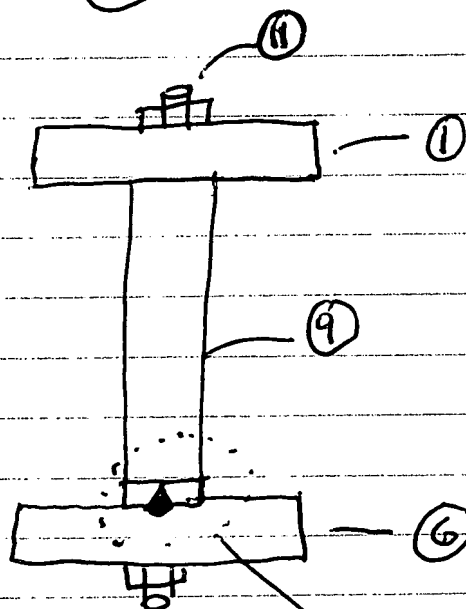
(14) opening @ WALL COVER



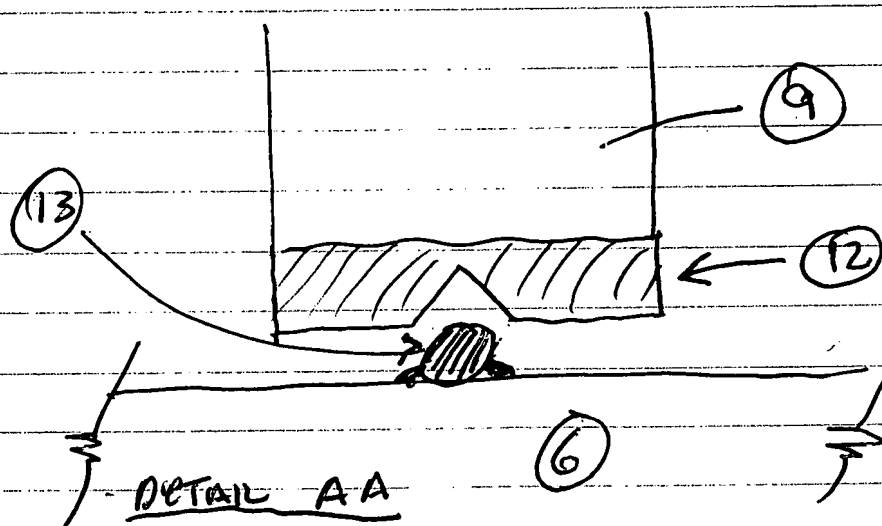
1) Detailed description of components
(see sketch 1. numbering)

①
②
③
④
⑤
⑥
⑦

⑧
⑨
⑩
⑪
⑫ V-PLATE NOTCH
⑬ WELDED ROD
⑭ WALL COVER



DETAIL AA
SELF ALIGNMENT



2) SKETCH OF MATERIAL COMPONENTS AND MATERIALS USED

- ① METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ② FIBERGLASS, METAL, WOOD, COMP.
- ③ METAL ALLOY
- ④ METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE / NETTING
- ⑤ METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ⑥ METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ⑦ METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ⑧ WOOD / METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ⑨ METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ⑩ METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ⑪ METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ⑫ METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ⑬ METAL ALLOY / COMPOSITE
- ⑭ METAL ALLOY / WOOD / COMPOSITE

3) SPECIFIC FEATURES REGARDING SYSTEM

PIVOTING / ROTATING

- A) AN INDOOR / OUT DOOR BASKETBALL SYSTEM
- * B) GETS AROUND COMMUNITY RULES REGARDING PERMANENTLY MOUNTED BASKETBALL RINGS & HOOPS
- C) SELF ALIGNING FOR INDOOR OR OUTDOOR PLAY
(SEE "V" NOTCH PLATE ⑫ ⑬)
- D) BACKBOARD CAN FOLD TO REDUCE WALL OPENING OR IT CAN BE NON FOLDING
- * E) THE BACKBOARD SHUTTLES THRU AN EXTERIOR WALL, THRU ITS OWN OPENING
- F) THE SYSTEM AS SHOWN IS DEPLOYED MANUALLY, IT CAN BE MOTORIZED
- * G) A TOTALLY HIDDEN SYSTEM
- H) AN OPENING COVER WHICH CAN BE A NORMAL BUILDING ELEMENT (LOUVER ETC.)
- I) A "FLIP-UP" HOOP TO REDUCE WALL HOLE SIZE OR SWINGING TO SIDE

4) DESCRIBE HOW IT WORKS

27

A) DOOR OPENS (14)

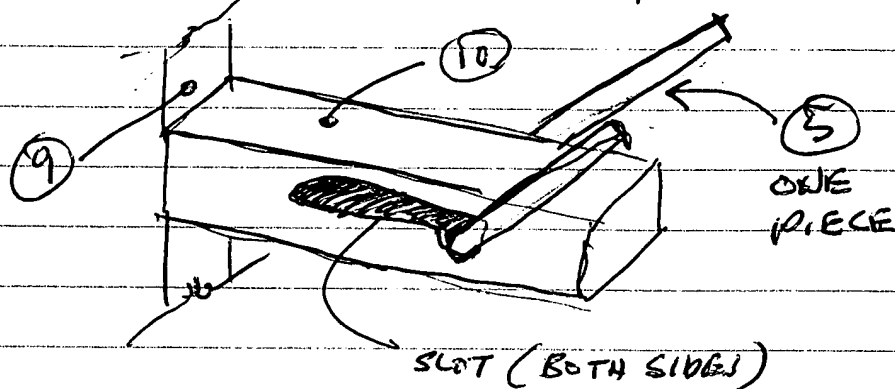
B) SUPPORT ASSEMBLY ROTATES TWO HOLE
PIECES (7, 9), (1), (10)

C) SUPPORT ASSEMBLY SELF ALIGNS FOR
OUT DOOR PLAY VIA ALIGNMENT DETAIL
"AA"

D) HOOP (4) FLIPS DOWN OR SWINGS ~~TO~~ INTO
PLACE. A CATCH HOLDS THE HOOP (4) IN
POSITION

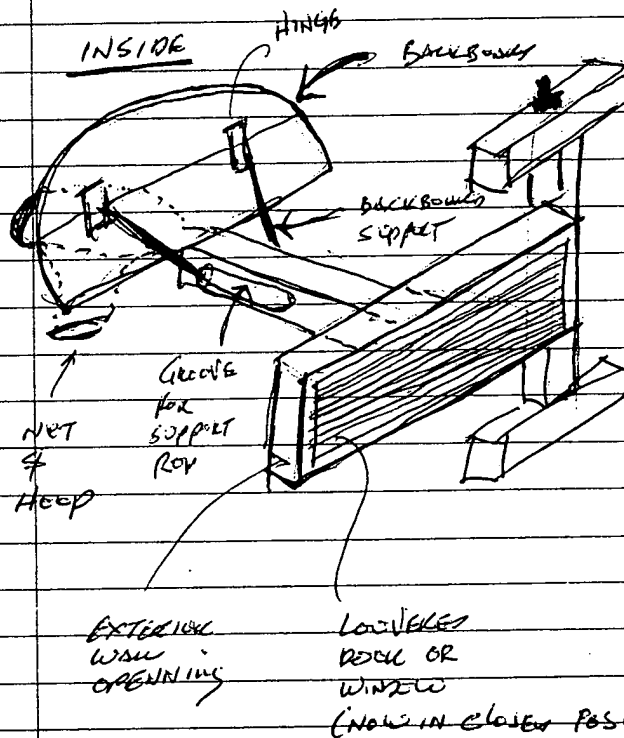
E) BACKBOARD SUPPORT (5) PUSHES ON BACKBOARD
(2) TO UNFOLD AND ERECT THE BACKBOARD
FOR PLAY

F) BACKBOARD SUPPORT (5) SLIDES ALONG SUPPORT
ARM (10) AND LOCKS INTO PLACE



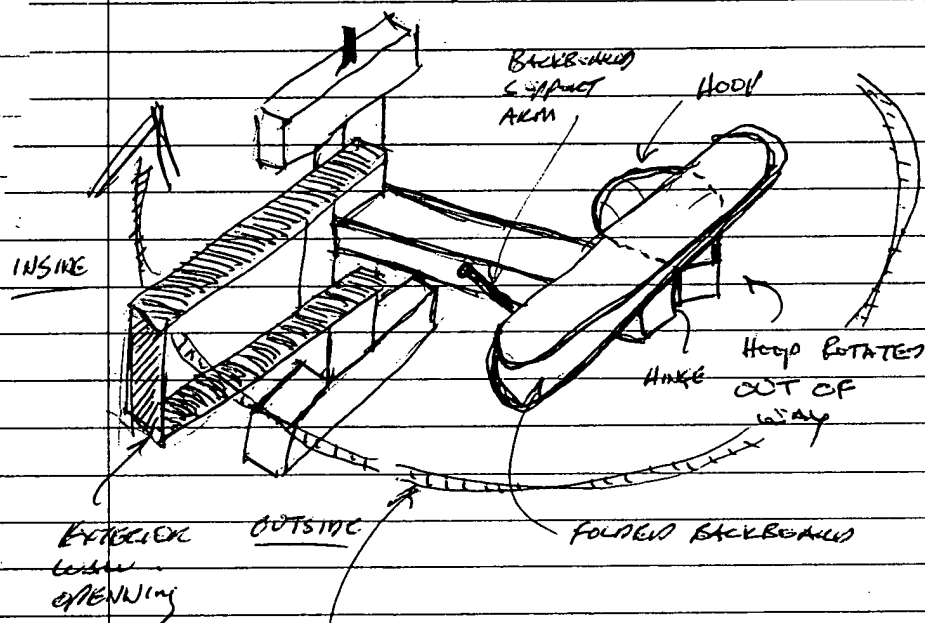
OTHER INFORMATION

2 SKETCH SHOWING INSIDE VIEW



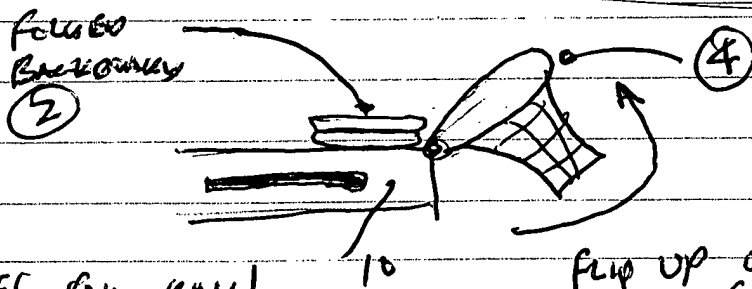
INDOOR VIEW

2. SKETCH SHOWING BACKBOARD ASSEMBLY
COMPACTING IN SIZE TO STORE "INSIDE"
OF STRUCTURE.



INDICATES HORIZONTAL
ROTATION OF ASSEMBLY
TO STORE INSIDE OF BUILDING OR
FOR INDOOR PLAY

(NOT TO ANY SCALE)



(END OF NOTES FOR RAY)

FLIP UP OVER
BACKBOARD FOR STORAGE

12/2 Ray lead note

- CLAUDE DOES BACKGROUNDS - 1-2 PAGES

- Ray provide - Description of EBOY meet

2/1/99 General notes for next meeting w/ Lou

1. Purpose of invention (indoor outdoor)

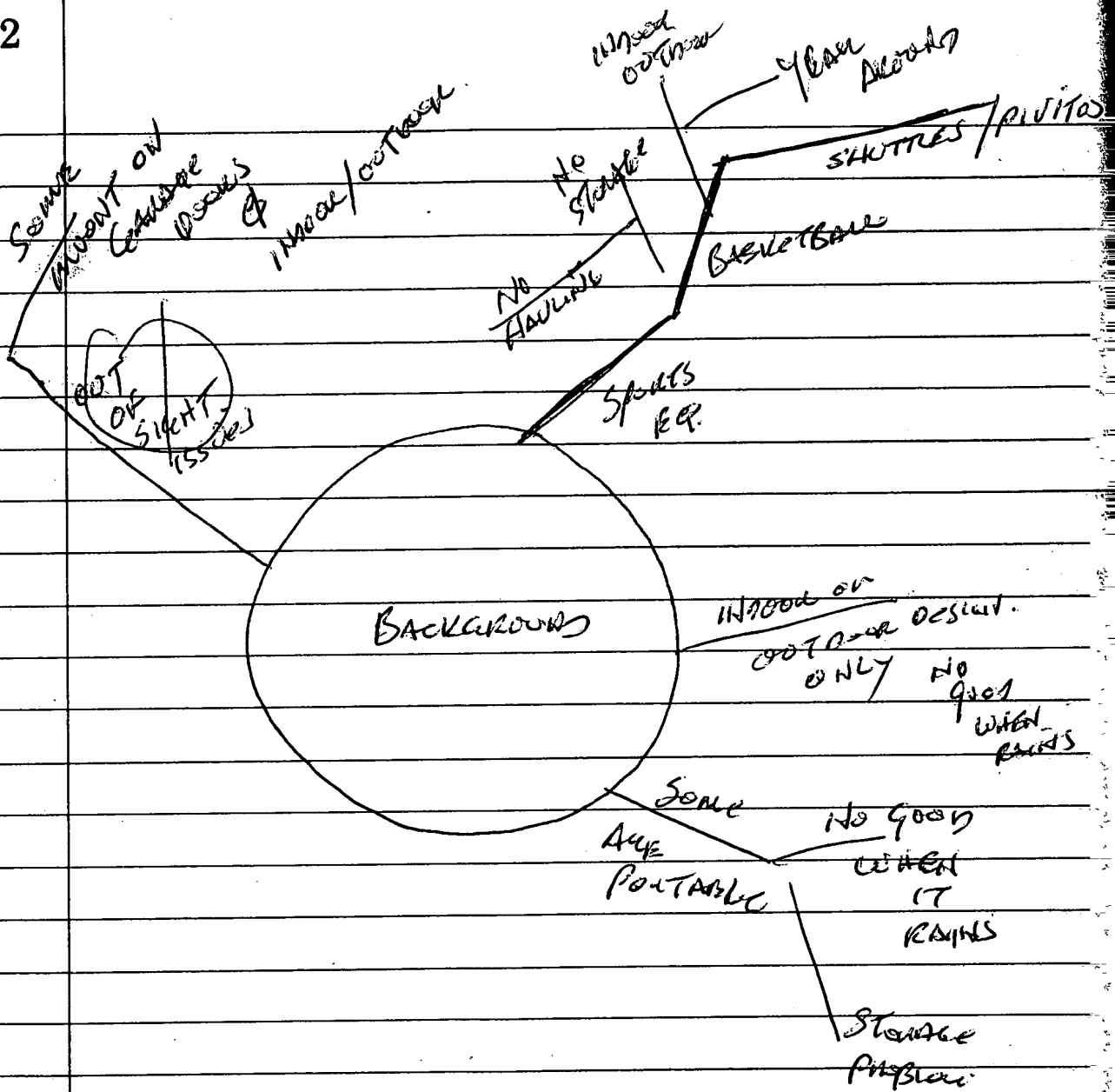
- better storage
- inclement weather use
- easier to set up
- paper

2. Can the invention only be granted for indoor rather than outdoor

3. Must get approval for claim through its own hole

4. Spots can't move

5. Altering / motorized systems



5. Don't show gauge door

6. Now we mention C&U error

BACKGROUNDS OF THE INVENTION

- RELATED TO SPORTS EQUIPMENT
- SPECIFICALLY

"Moff" Background

This present invention generally pertains to recreational and sports equipment and more specifically to a basketball hoop and backboard assembly which can function as to serve ^{as} an indoor or outdoor playing apparatus. This assembly is mounted to a rigid non movable structure (such as a building ~~floor~~ ^{surface} wall) and the

manipulating device allows the backboard and hoop assembly ^(in a selected position) to shuttle through the ~~wall~~ ^{surface}. An opening ^{is made in the wall}, from inside to outside (or vice versa) at which time the assembly is then

AT
An
E. E. E. E. E.
C. C. C. C. C.
S. S. S. S. S.

weather, or look for

An alternate "indoor" basketball backboard
and hoop location such as a
gymnasium

to avoid outdoor elements

uncollapsed for indoor or outdoor play, respectively.

Basketball is ~~played~~ traditionally played with the backboard ~~and~~ and hoop mounted to a ~~rigid~~ ~~sh~~ rigid building structure or its own support pole. This ^{outdoor game} ~~association~~ ^{is enjoyed} ~~all~~ ^{perfectly} ~~functioned~~ in good weather; however, during snow, ice, rain or inordinately hot and humid days, basketball playing is curtailed due to these harsh elements impact on the sports ~~participants~~ basketball athlete. Either the athlete waits for improved

Currently, portable basketball backboards and hoops are also available which can be transported from ^{outside} outdoor to ~~inside~~ ~~indoor~~ ^{units}; but these units are awkward to transport, often can't be maneuvered by younger people, present a tipping "tip-over" falling hazard to individuals, consume precious ^{space} garage floor space even and can be hit both automobiles.

permanently
mentally

locking out of a garage, ^{when} ~~the~~ the
 patrol unit ~~is~~ deployed on ~~to~~ the
 adjacent driveway, ^{and its away;}
 in the ^{garage} way [→] of the area.

To enjoy the pleasure of indoor
 and outdoor lockball play without
 the disadvantages of ~~existing~~ two
 separate rigidly attached assemblies,
 or without the disadvantages of a
 portable type ^{unit} ~~assembly~~, there exists
 a need for a single lockball
 assembly which is ^{non} portable
 and ~~but fixed to which is~~ permanently
 affixed to a rigid structure so
 as to allow ~~unrestricted~~ ^{unrestricted} ~~restricted~~
 restricted or unrestricted play, via
 a pivoting assembly, which can
 be collapsed to shuttle through ^{a specific}
 opening in a structure's ~~exterior~~ outside
 surface (such as a wall) and then
 be ^{re-} ~~re-~~ ^{erected} ~~erected~~ into the "ready
 for play" position, and then again, if ^{needed}
 collapsed and shelled back through the same
 opening and recreated to be ready for

play on the opposite (under or
~~outside~~ outdoors 180° opposite
 side of a building's support
 for indoor or outdoor basketball play.

(TYPIST VERSION)

BACKGROUND

This present invention generally pertains to recreational and sports equipment and more specifically to a basketball hoop and backboard assembly that can function to serve both as an indoor and outdoor playing apparatus. This assembly is mounted to a rigid non moveable structure (such as a building's exterior, i.e. exterior wall) and the assembly's pivoting device allows the backboard and hoop assembly (in the collapsed position) to shuttle through an opening, from inside to outside (or vice versa), at which time the assembly is then erected for indoor or outdoor play, respectively.

Basketball is traditionally played with the backboard and hoop mounted to a rigid building structure or its own support pole. This game is enjoyed in good weather; however, during snow, ice, rain or extraordinarily hot and humid weather, basketball playing is curtailed due to these elements' impact on the athlete. Either the athlete waits for improved weather or looks for an alternative indoor basketball backboard and hoop such as in a gymnasium.

Currently, portable basketball backboards and hoops are available which can be transported from outside to inside locations to avoid nature's elements, but these units are awkward to transport, often can not be maneuvered by younger people, present a "tip over" falling hazard to individuals, consume precious garage floor storage area and can be hit by automobiles which are backing out of a garage.

To enjoy the pleasures of indoor and outdoor basketball play without the disadvantages of installing two separate rigidly attached assemblies, or without the disadvantages of a portable type assembly, there exists a need for a "single" basketball assembly which is "non portable" and permanently affixes to a rigid non moveable structure to facilitate both indoor or outdoor basketball play. This proposed new assembly permanently mounts to a fixed structure and through its pivoting mechanism, allows a collapsed backboard and hoop to shuttle through an exterior opening and then be erected for outdoor basketball play. The assembly can again be collapsed and shuttled back through the opening and be erected for indoor play.



Long Island Rail Road

PEAK ONE-WAY TICKET - Good on peak trains, which are those that are scheduled to arrive at city terminals from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM or scheduled to depart city terminals from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on weekdays (excluding Holidays).

OFF-PEAK ONE-WAY TICKET - Good on all except peak trains (see above) to and from zones 1 and 3.

OFF-PEAK ROUND TRIP TICKET - Good on all except peak trains (see above). Return ticket good during month of sale and the two (2) calendar months that follow.

FAMILY CHILD FARE - Up to 4 children, ages 5 through 11, with each parent or guardian 18 years of age or older on off-peak trains.

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TICKET/RECEIPT - This ticket/receipt must be punched before it is separated and this half delivered to customer paying fare to conductor. Punch cuts must indicate the zones between which fare is collected (see fare zone map on back).

CHANGING TRAINS - If it is necessary to change trains, please take this ticket with you. It is good on the scheduled connecting train, but may not be valid on later trains.

FARES - Conductors are personally responsible for the collection of proper fares. If an explanation of the fare is desired, please write, enclosing this receipt (keep a copy for your record), to: LIRR, P.O. Box 350383, Jamaica, NY 11435.

SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS

WRITE IN



THANK YOU
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TRAIN TICKET AND RECEIPT

Please Keep this Ticket for Remainder of Trip(s) and as Evidence of Payment

11*	7 *	1 *
12*	9 *	3 *
14*	10*	4 *

\$20 *	\$10 *	SAME ZONE
\$7 *	\$4 *	\$1 *
\$8 *	\$5 *	\$2 *
\$9 *	\$6 *	\$3 *

75*	50*	25*
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PORT WASHTN	WEST HMPSTO	FAR ROCKWY
OYSTER BAY	HEMPSTEAD	LONG BEACH
HUNT. J. PT. JEFFRSON	RNM. & GRNPORT	BABYLON & MONTAUK

ONE WAY	PEAK CHILD	SR. CIT / DISAB.	PEAK
B	OFF-PEAK CHILD	OFF-PEAK	

ROUND TRIP	OFF-PEAK CHILD	SR. CIT / DISAB.	OFF-PEAK
1	2	3	4

OTHER DESIGN	PARLOR SEAT	EXTEN. OF RIDE	SERVICE CHARGE
STEP UP	FAMILY CHILD	10 TRIP	OFF-PEAK

MCH.	FEB.	JAN.
JUN.	MAY	APR.
SEP.	AUG.	JLY.
DEC.	NOV.	OCT.

SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	TH.	FRI.
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DEST.	GRT NECK	HUNT.	HICKS	JCT.	V.S.	FRPT	BAB.	JAM.
DEST.	GRT NECK	HUNT.	HICK.	JCT.	V.S.	FRPT	BAB.	JAM.

FORM CF-8

B8986472

2/9/00

Ry 104 acc

- 1) Paving machine - under outdoor
- 2) Machinery
- 3) Paver and retro-reflective cones
can - necessary only if
needed.

Quote - 1) next step

- 1) patent refer
- 2) Paving machine
- 3) once filed

3/07/00

Miles RT to : La

42 miles

to US \$700

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1.83

2.00

.17

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www.officedepot.com

other application
consideration



O'BRIEN KREITZBERG

A DAMES & MOORE GROUP COMPANY

1. SLOPED ROOF
2. WHAT ARE STEPS 40/42
3. ANGULAR BRACE
IDENTIFIED
4. PIB STEP 42, BOT OF
PAGE - 2ND LINE FROM
BOTTOM - HOOP 42
SHOULD BE 40.
5. FIG 7 - say why it
is being inclined.
6. CAN BE @ TIME
OF BUILDING CONST
OR MODIFICATION
7. 6th - next web-
(cinque ou solid)
(mum, Kate)
+ de what

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sent off processed applications*

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WILLISTON NY 11596

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DATE: 03/17/00 10:39:03 AM

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TOTAL: \$ 15.75

*** THANK YOU ***

EXHIBIT F

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : DELBERT CLARKE PILE
Serial No. : Please assign
Filed : Concurrently herewith
Title : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR A
RETRACTABLE BASKETBALL
BACKBOARD AND HOOP ASSEMBLY

Box Provisional Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

"Express Mail" mailing label number EL428814709US

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Date of Deposit: MARCH 17, 2000

(Signature): 
DELBERT CLARKE PILE

PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

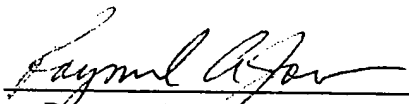
Sir:

Please find transmitted herewith for filing the following:

- (1) Provisional Application for Patent Cover Sheet;
- (2) Provisional Patent Application including Specification, Claims and Abstract- 34 pages, and Drawings - 8 sheets.
- (3) Check in the amount of \$75.00 for the filing fee;
- (4) Power of Attorney form; and
- (5) Return Receipt Postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the above papers be filed as a Provisional Patent Application.

Respectfully submitted,
MELTZER, LIPPE, GOLDSTEIN
& SCHLISSEL, P.C.

By: 
Raymond A. Joao
Reg. No. 35,907

March 17, 2000

MELTZER, LIPPE, GOLDSTEIN
& SCHLISSEL, P.C.
190 Willis Avenue
Mineola, New York 11501

Tel. No.: (516) 747-0300
Fax No.: (516) 747-9363

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53 (c).

INVENTOR(S)					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname		Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)	
DELBERT CLARKE		PILE		430 NORTH SHORE ROAD HADLEY, NEW YORK 12835	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the ___ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)					
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR A RETRACTABLE BASKETBALL BACKBOARD AND HOOP ASSEMBLY					
Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number		<input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here	
OR Type Customer Number here					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name		MELTZER, LIPPE, GOLDSTEIN & SCHLISSEL, P.C.			
Address		190 WILLIS AVENUE			
Address					
City		MINEOLA		State	NEW YORK
				ZIP	11501
Country		U.S.A.		Telephone	516-747-0300
				Fax	516-747-9363
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages		34		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets		8		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) POWER OF ATTY RETURN POSTCARD	
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT (check one)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees				FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$)	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: <input type="text"/>				\$75.00	
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____					

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE 

TYPED or PRINTED NAME RAYMOND A. JOAO

TELEPHONE (516) 747-0300

Date 3/17/00

REGISTRATION NO. 35,907

(if appropriate)
Docket Number: 6379-1

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is used by the public to file (and by the PTO to process) a provisional application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete provisional application to the PTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

POWER OF ATTORNEY

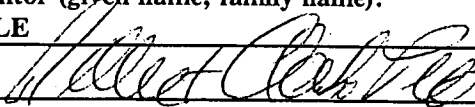
Application of: Delbert Clarke Pile
Serial No.: Please assign
Filed on: Concurrently herewith
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR A RETRACTABLE BASKETBALL
BACKBOARD AND HOOP ASSEMBLY

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

RAYMOND A. JOAO, Reg. No. 35,907

Address all telephone calls to Raymond A. Joao at telephone number: (516) 747-0300
Address all correspondence to Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein and Schlissel, P.C.
190 Willis Avenue
Mineola, New York 11501

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of the sole inventor (given name, family name): DELBERT CLARKE PILE	
Inventor's signature: > 	Date: > 3/17/00
Residence: 430 NORTH SHORE ROAD HADLEY, NEW YORK 12835 USA	Citizenship: U.S.A.
Post Office Address: SAME AS ABOVE	

**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)
6379-1

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: DELBERT CLARKE PILE

Application or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: MARCH 17, 2000

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR A RETRACTABLE BASKETBALL
BACKBOARD AND HOOP ASSEMBLY

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
☐ the application identified above.
☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.
☐ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

DELBERT CLARKE PILE

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

Date

Date

Date

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR A RETRACTABLE BASKETBALL
BACKBOARD AND HOOP ASSEMBLY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention pertains to an apparatus and a method for a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly and, in particular, to an apparatus and a method for a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly which can also be retractable to a location within an interior of a structure.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The game of basketball is a very popular game which is traditionally played with a backboard and hoop which can typically be mounted on a rigid structure, a building, and/or a pole, or other structure. Basketball is a game which is traditionally enjoyed during good weather. However, during snow, rain, ice, extreme hot and/or humid weather, and/or other inclement weather conditions, basketball playing can be curtailed due to the adverse effects these weather and/or environmental conditions may have on individuals. In these situations, the individuals desiring to play basketball must typically seek an alternate venue for playing the game.

The need for providing a safe structure for deploying the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is yet another problem which can constrain the play of basketball. Currently, portable basketball backboard and hoop assemblies are available which can be transported from outdoor locations to indoor locations in order to allow for play during inclement weather. These portable units, however, can be awkward to move or transport and/or may not be easily maneuvered by younger individuals. Portable backboard and hoop assemblies can also present a danger of tipping over, consume limited garage storage space, and/or can be hit by automobiles.

Another concern lies in the fact that certain municipalities have ordinances and/or other local laws which prohibit the installation of backboard and hoop assemblies on the exterior of garages, homes, and/or other structures.

In one prior art basketball backboard and hoop arrangement, U.S. Patent No. 4,934,696 discloses a backboard and hoop assembly which is attached to a moveable garage door. This prior art assembly has several disadvantages associated therewith. For example, the assembly can only be utilized outdoors, its installation on the garage door can violate most manufacturer use and maintenance guidelines because of weight

imbalances caused thereby, the garage door may require a prop or other device to hold it open, the basketball assembly can pose a risk of hitting a car when the garage door is opened or closed, the basketball assembly can take up or reduce available parking space, and/or the basketball assembly can pose a safety risk to individuals during garage door opening and/or closing.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides an apparatus and a method for a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly and, in particular, to an apparatus and a method for a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly which can also be retractable to a location within an interior of a structure, which overcomes the shortcomings of the prior art.

The present invention provides an apparatus and a method for a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly which can be utilized for outdoor play, as well as indoor play, while being capable of being retracted within the interior of a structure or building. The apparatus of the present invention can be installed on an interior side of a wall or other support structure of the building or structure and can be deployed through a suitable aperture which can be dedicated for use with

the apparatus of the present invention.

The apparatus can include a basketball backboard and hoop assembly and a support structure which can serve to support same. The support structure can also serve to facilitate the installation and/or the attachment of the apparatus to the interior wall of a structure or building. The apparatus can also include a support device or support arm which can support the backboard and hoop assembly and which can facilitate the movement of same from a stored position to a deployed position and vice versa.

The basketball backboard and hoop assembly can include a backboard, which can be a foldable backboard or a solid and unfoldable backboard. The basketball backboard and hoop assembly can also include a hoop and net. The basketball backboard and hoop assembly and/or the apparatus can also include any necessary hardware and other devices for facilitating the structure and manner of use thereof as described herein.

The apparatus of the present invention can facilitate the rotation of the basketball backboard and hoop assembly in a horizontal manner, in a vertical manner, through any angle of rotation and/or in any angle of inclination, and/or in any

combination thereof, in order to deploy same for use and/or in order to store same.

Any of the component parts of the apparatus of the present invention can be manufactured from any suitable material, including, but not limited to metal, steel, wood, plastic, plastic composites, metal alloy material, metal alloy composite material, fiberglass, etc.

The apparatus of the present invention can be utilized for outdoor play as well as for indoor play. The apparatus of the present invention can also provide for a sliding and/or telescopic deployment through an appropriate aperture.

The apparatus can also be provided with motorized components for facilitating an automated and/or a controlled deployment of same.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable

basketball backboard and hoop assembly which can be retractable to a location within an interior of a structure.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly which can utilized for outdoor play, indoor play, or both outdoor and indoor play.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly which can be deployed through an aperture of a structure.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the assembly is installed and/or supported by an interior wall and/or other interior structure or device of a building or structure.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the assembly is rotated about a plane of motion during the deployment of same and/or during the retraction and/or the storing of same.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the assembly is rotated about a horizontal plane of motion during the deployment of same and/or during the retraction and/or the storing of same.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the assembly is rotated about a vertical plane of motion during the deployment of same and/or during the retraction and/or storing of same.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the assembly is moveable longitudinally during the deployment of same and/or during the retraction and/or storing of same.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the assembly can be deployed through an aperture dedicated for utilization in conjunction with the present invention.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the assembly can include a foldable backboard and/or a solid and/or non-foldable backboard.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the assembly can contain motorized components.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the assembly can facilitate an automated deployment of same.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for providing a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein the apparatus includes a control device for controlling the operation thereof.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent to those individuals skilled in the art upon a

review of the Description Of The Preferred Embodiment taken in conjunction with the Drawings which follow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the Drawings:

Figure 1 illustrates a three-dimensional perspective view of the apparatus of the present invention illustrating the component parts thereof;

Figure 2 illustrates a front view of the support structure of Figure 1;

Figure 3 illustrates a perspective view of the support arm portion of the support structure of Figure 2;

Figure 4 illustrates the apparatus of Figure 1 in a stored position;

Figure 5 illustrates the apparatus of the present invention in the fully deployed and/or in-use position;

Figure 6 illustrates another preferred embodiment use of the apparatus of the present invention;

Figure 7 illustrates another preferred embodiment of

the apparatus of the present invention; and

Figure 8 illustrates another preferred embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention provides an apparatus and a method for a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly and, in particular, the present invention provides a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly which can be utilized for outdoor play, as well as indoor play, while being capable of being retracted within the interior of a support structure. In this manner, the basketball backboard and hoop assembly of the present invention can provide a basketball backboard and hoop assembly which is supported by a support structure which is located within the interior of a structure, such as a garage, a house, a building, as well as an interior and/or an exterior wall. When not in use outdoors, the basketball backboard and hoop assembly can be collapsed and can be retracted within the interior of the respective building and/or structure, where it can be stored and/or utilized for indoor play.

Figure 1 illustrates a three dimensional perspective

view of the apparatus of the present invention illustrating the component parts thereof. In Figure 1, the apparatus of the present invention is designated generally by the reference numeral 100. The apparatus 100 of Figure 1 is illustrated as being installed on the interior side of the wall 50 of the building structure and deployed through the aperture 60.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the apparatus 100 includes a support structure 10 which serves to support the basketball backboard and hoop assembly as shown and as described herein. The support structure 10 also serves to facilitate the installation and/or the attachment of the apparatus 100 to the interior wall 50 as shown and described herein.

The support structure 10 includes an upper support bracket 11 and a lower support bracket 12. The upper support bracket 11 and the lower support bracket 12 are affixed to the interior side of the wall 50 by nuts 13 and bolts 14 and/or by any other attachment hardware and/or devices.

The support structure 10 also includes a rotating vertical shaft 15 which is rotatably connected to the upper support bracket 11 and to the lower support bracket 12 via a

through bolt 18 or other suitable element which extends through aperture 16 of the upper support bracket 11 and aperture 17 in the lower support bracket 12. In this manner, the rotating vertical shaft 15 is supported by, and rotatably mounted to the upper support bracket 11 and the lower support bracket 12. In the preferred embodiment, bolt 18 extends through the respective apertures of the 16, 17 of the upper support bracket 11 and the lower support bracket 12 so as to facilitate the manual and/or automatic rotating of the rotating shaft for facilitating the rotation of the shaft and resulting deployment and/or retraction of the basketball backboard and hoop assembly 30.

The rotating vertical shaft has on the bottom portion thereof a notch cutout 19 which mates with corresponding position locking protrusion 20 (not shown) which is located on the topside of the lower support bracket 12.

Figure 2 illustrates a front view of the support structure 10 illustrating the locking protrusion 20. The locking protrusions 20 facilitates the locking in position of the vertical rotating shaft via the mating of the notch cutout and the respective locking protrusions. In the preferred embodiment, the rotating vertical shaft may be designed so that it can rotate at a position above the locking protrusion and drop downwardly to

mate with each protrusion.

In the preferred embodiment, locking protrusion 20 is associated with the indoor or outdoor position, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is respectively ready for play or stored within the wall 50. Locking protrusion 20 is also associated with the deployed outdoor position wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly are in the use position, but positioned 180° opposite the indoor use or playing position.

With reference one again to Figure 1, the support structure 10 also includes a support arm 25 which is permanently attached to the rotating vertical shaft 15. In the preferred embodiment, the support arm 25 extends perpendicularly from the rotating vertical shaft. However, it is understood that the support arm 25 may extend from the rotating vertical shaft 15 in any appropriate direction.

Figure 3 illustrates a more detailed view of the support arm 25. With reference to Figure 3, the support arm 25 includes a backboard support bracket 26 which is moveable within an integral backboard support bracket guide track 27 having locking positions 28 and 29 as shown. The backboard support bracket 26 is connected and/or affixed to the backboard and hoop

assembly 30 via appropriate hinge brackets 31 which are located on the backside of the backboard. The backboard support bracket 26 and corresponding brackets 31 facilitate the support of the backboard when in use as well as the unfolding and folding of same as described herein below.

When the assembly 30 is ready to be unfolded, the support arm 26 is raised out of the locking position 28 and slid along the guide track 27. When the assembly 30 is to be positioned for play, the support arm 26 is slid along the guide track 27 to and locked into locking position 28, thereby facilitating the erection of the vertical backboard from the folded assembly 30. Once the support arm has been fully deployed, the backboard can be unfolded and deployed for use by pushing the backboard support bracket 26 along the guide track 27 to the unfolded locking position 28 which is the locking position closest to the backboard. The backboard may be folded for retraction into the wall 50 by pushing the backboard support bracket 26 out of the locking position 28 and sliding it along the guide track 27 to the folded locking position 29 which is the locking position furthest from the backboard. The backboard may be locked in the use position by locking hinges 31 shown in Figure 3.

The basketball backboard and hoop assembly 30 includes a backboard 35 which is comprised of two backboard sections, an upper backboard section 36 and a lower backboard section 37, which backboard sections 36 and 37 are attached to each other via hinges 31 which may be any appropriate hinges for allowing the backboard to fold and lock in any desired manner. The backboard, in both its folded state and in its deployed or in-use state, is supported by the support arm at and or in the vicinity of the end portion of same, with said location defined as the backboard support region 39.

The basketball backboard and hoop assembly 30 also includes a hoop 40 and net 41. The hoop 40 is connected via a hinge 42 to the end of the support arm 25 as shown in Figure 1. In the preferred embodiment, the hoop 40 is rotatable in a horizontal location. In this instance, the hinge 42 will facilitate a horizontal rotation of the hoop 40 relative to the support arm 25. In another preferred embodiment, the hoop 40 can be vertically rotatable. In this instance, the hinge 42 can facilitate the vertical rotation of the hoop 40. The hinge 42, in the preferred embodiment, can be a locking hinge or a hinge with a separate and associated locking device or locking catch.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention,

an appropriate cover 65 can be utilized to cover the aperture 60 in the wall 50. The cover 65 can be any one or combination of a flip-up cover, a swing-up cover, a flip down, a swing-down cover, a sliding cover, a side swing-over cover, and/or any other cover which can be manufactured from any appropriate material. The cover 65, in any of the embodiments described herein, can be, and/or can include, a vent, an air vent, an air duct, a louvered air vent, a screen, and/or any other kind of ventilation device.

Any of the component parts of the support structure 10 and/or the various brackets and/or hinges of the apparatus, which are described herein, can be manufactured from any suitable material, including, but not limited to metal, steel, wood, plastic, plastic composites, metal alloy material, metal alloy composite material, fiberglass, etc. The backboard 35 can be manufactured from wood, fiberglass, plastic composites, plexiglass, metal and/or any other suitable material. The hoop 40 can be manufactured from metal, fiberglass, plastic, and/or any other suitable material.

The present invention can be utilized as described below in order to provide a basketball backboard and hoop assembly which can be stored, or erected for play, in the

interior of a structure and can be fully deployed for use when desired. Figure 4 illustrates the apparatus of Figure 1 in a stored position.

When it is desired to deploy the apparatus 100, the cover 65, at step 40, can be respectively flipped, swung, slide and/or otherwise moved, depending on the type of cover utilized, so as to uncover the aperture. At step 41, the rotating vertical shaft is rotated from the stored position, thereby facilitating the rotation of the support arm 25, and the backboard and hoop assembly 30 through the aperture 60 and to a location external from the building. The rotating vertical shaft can be rotated manually by any appropriate device for rotating the end portion 18 or the shaft which protrudes from the top of the upper support bracket 11. The vertical shaft is rotated until the locking notch 19 comes into contact with and interlocks with locking protrusion 20.

At step 42, the backboard support bracket 26 can be pushed along the guide track 27 of the support arm 25 until it comes into contact with, and interlocks with, unfolded locking position 28. This operation will unfold and lock the backboard 35 in the use position. Thereafter, at step 43, the hoop 42 will be rotated in the horizontal direction until it is positioned in

the use position under the backboard 35. The hoop 40 will then be locked in place. While the backboard 35 is described as being unfolded prior to the hoop 40 being rotated and locked into position, the order of these steps can be changed or reversed. Figure 5 illustrates the apparatus of the present invention in the fully deployed and/or in-use position. The apparatus 100, when in the fully deployed position, can be ready for play.

When it is desired to store the apparatus, the above described steps can be carried out in the reverse order, such as for example, the hoop 40 can be unlocked and rotated or flipped to its stored position, the backboard support bracket 26 can be unlocked and moved or pushed along the guide track 27 of the support arm 25 until it comes into contact with, and interlocks with, folded locking position 29, and thereafter, the rotating vertical shaft 15 can be rotated so as to retract the support arm 25 and the backboard and hood assembly 30 to the stored position inside the building interior. Thereafter, the cover 65 can be moved in position to cover aperture 60 in the wall 50.

In another preferred embodiment, the apparatus can be deployed for use, in the same manner as described herein, for interior use, if such use can be accommodated. Figure 6 illustrates another preferred embodiment use of the apparatus 100

wherein the apparatus 100 is deployed on an interior wall.

In another preferred embodiment, the apparatus 100 can be deployed via a longitudinal displacement along a guide rail. Figure 7 illustrates another preferred embodiment of the apparatus 100. In the embodiment of Figure 7, the guide rail 70 can be attached to an interior floor 80 or wall 50 and/or the guide rail 70 can also be supported by any other appropriate device or means and/or in any appropriate manner. Support structure or device 110 can be utilized to support the guide rail 70 as shown. In Figure 7, the support structure 110 can be support members for supporting the guide rail 70 against the interior wall. The backboard and hoop assembly 30 can be attached to the support arm 25 which support arm 25 can be supported within, and slid along, the guide rail 70. In this manner, the backboard and hoop assembly 30 can be moveably guided, along the guide rail 70, between a stored position and a fully deployed position. All other components of the apparatus 100 can remain the same.

The support structure 10 can also be utilized in the embodiment of Figure 7, in any suitable manner, if rotatable deployment may be desired and/or accommodated for as an alternate form of deployment, and/or if rotatable deployment can be

utilized in any manner in conjunction with the operation of the embodiment of Figure 7.

The guide rail 70 can be oriented so as to be horizontally situated. The guide rail 70 can also be inclined at any angle suitable for use in the manner described herein. In a similar manner, the support arm 25 can also be oriented to be horizontally situated, and/or situated on an incline, and/or situated and/or positioned in any manner which is consistent with its use.

When deploying the apparatus 100 of the embodiment of Figure 7, the support arm 25 and backboard and hoop assembly 30 can be deployed via be slide along the guide rail 70. Thereafter, the basketball backboard and hoop assembly 30 can be deployed and locked in place for use as described above in steps 42 and 43. The apparatus 100 of Figure 7 can be stored in the reverse manner.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the backboard can be a folded and/or a foldable backboard and/or the backboard can be a solid and/or an unfoldable backboard. In any event, the size of the aperture 60 through which the backboard and hoop assembly 30 will pass must be of a sufficient

size and shape to accommodate the type of backboard (i.e. folded or unfolded) which is utilized.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the aperture 60 can be an aperture dedicated for use in conjunction with the backboard and hoop assembly 30 of the present invention.

In another preferred embodiment, the backboard and hoop assembly 30 can be utilized in conjunction with a support member and an associated support arm for facilitating rotation of the backboard and hoop assembly 30 about a vertical plane, in a manner similar to a pendulum swing. In this embodiment, the backboard and hoop assembly 30 can be rotated or "swung" between a stored position and an in-use position.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the backboard and hoop assembly, and/or any other components of the apparatus, can be rotated through and/or along a horizontal plane or axis, rotated through and/or along a vertical plane or axis, rotated through and/or along any angle of rotation, rotated through and/or along any angle of inclination, and/or rotated through and/or along any combination thereof.

In another preferred embodiment, the apparatus 100 can be provided with motorized components for facilitating an automated deployment of same. Figure 8 illustrates another preferred embodiment of the present invention wherein the various moving parts are equipped with electric motors. In this regard, the rotating vertical shaft 15 can be equipped with an electric motor 15M, the backboard support bracket 26 can be provided with an electric motor 26M.

In an automated deployment operation, the user may sequentially activate, via conveniently located electrical switches each motor. In another preferred embodiment, the apparatus 100 can include a control device 90 which control device can control the sequential operation of the motors 15M, and 26M. In the embodiment of Figure 8, the apparatus 100 can be deployed and/or stored in the manner described above.

In any and/or all of the embodiments described herein, the apparatus and method of the present invention can be utilized exclusively for outdoor play, exclusively for indoor play, and/or for both outdoor play and indoor play, and/or for any other purpose.

The present invention dispenses with the need to

permanently affix a basketball backboard and hoop assembly on the exterior of a building and/or on an exterior portion or component of a building, and/or on an interior portion or component of a building. The present invention also dispenses with the need to deploy the basketball backboard and hoop assembly through an aperture, a garage door opening, and/or any other aperture or passageway, which is not typically dedicated to the deployment of same. The present invention provides for a dedicated aperture through which the basketball backboard and hoop assembly and any other supporting elements and/or structures can be deployed and/or retracted.

While the apparatus and method of the present invention has been described and illustrated in various preferred embodiments, such are only illustrative of the present invention and are not to be construed to be limitations thereof. Accordingly, the present invention encompasses any and all alternate embodiments, modifications, and/or variations, with the scope of the present invention being limited only by the claims which follow.

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A basketball backboard and hoop apparatus,
comprising:

a basketball backboard and hoop assembly;

a mounting device for mounting said apparatus to an
interior of a structure;

a support device rotatably connected to said mounting
device and connected to said basketball backboard and hoop
assembly,

wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is
rotatable from a first position, whereat said basketball
backboard and hoop assembly is stored inside the structure, to a
second position, whereat said basketball backboard and hoop
assembly is deployed for use outside the structure.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said basketball
backboard and hoop assembly is rotatable about at least one of a
horizontal axis, a vertical axis, any angle of rotation, and any

angle of inclination.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is deployed through a dedicated aperture.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is deployed for at least one of outdoor use and indoor use.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one backboard support member for facilitating at least one of a deployment of the backboard in an upright position, the unfolding of the backboard, the retraction of the backboard to a storage position, and the unfolding of the backboard.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of an electrical device and a mechanical device for actuating at least one of the deployment and the storage of said basketball backboard and hoop assembly.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said apparatus, said basketball backboard and hoop, said mounting device, and said support device, is manufactured from at least one of metal, steel, wood, plastic, plastic composite, metal alloy material, metal alloy composite material, and fiberglass.

8. A basketball backboard and hoop apparatus, comprising:

a basketball backboard and hoop assembly;

a mounting device for mounting said apparatus to an interior of a structure;

a support device movably connected to said mounting device and connected to said basketball backboard and hoop assembly,

wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is longitudinally moveable from a first position, whereat said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is stored inside the structure, to a second position, whereat said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is deployed for use outside the

structure.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a guiding device, wherein said support device is one of supported in said guiding device and longitudinally moveable one of on and within said guiding device.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said at least one of said support member, said guiding device, and said basketball backboard and hoop assembly, is rotatable about at least one of a horizontal axis, a vertical axis, any angle of rotation, and any angle of inclination.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is deployed through a dedicated aperture.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is deployed for at least one of outdoor use and indoor use.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

at least one backboard support member for facilitating at least one of a deployment of the backboard in an upright position, the unfolding of the backboard, the retraction of the backboard to a storage position, and the unfolding of the backboard.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

at least one of an electrical device and a mechanical device for actuating at least one of the deployment and the storage of said basketball backboard and hoop assembly.

15. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said at least one of said apparatus, said basketball backboard and hoop, said mounting device, said guiding device, and said support device, is manufactured from at least one of metal, steel, wood, plastic, plastic composite, metal alloy material, metal alloy composite material, and fiberglass.

16. A method for utilizing a basketball backboard and hoop assembly, comprising:

rotating a basketball backboard and hoop assembly from a stored position inside a structure through an aperture; and

deploying said basketball backboard and hoop assembly for use outside of the structure.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is rotatable about at least one of a horizontal axis, a vertical axis, any angle of rotation, and any angle of inclination.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is deployed through a dedicated aperture.

19. The method of claim 16; further comprising:

rotating said basketball backboard and hoop assembly wherein from a deployed position outside the structure, through said aperture and to a stored position.

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

rotating said basketball backboard assembly to a

position for indoor use.

21. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

at least one of deploying the backboard in an upright position, unfolding the backboard, retracting the backboard to a storage position, and unfolding the backboard.

22. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

actuating at least one of the deployment and the storage of said basketball backboard and hoop assembly.

23. A method for utilizing a basketball backboard and hoop assembly, comprising:

moving a basketball backboard and hoop assembly from a stored position inside a structure through an aperture; and

deploying said basketball backboard and hoop assembly for use outside of the structure.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is rotatable about at least one of a

horizontal axis, a vertical axis, any angle of rotation, and any angle of inclination.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein said basketball backboard and hoop assembly is deployed through a dedicated aperture.

26. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

rotating said basketball backboard and hoop assembly from a deployed position outside the structure, through said aperture and to a stored position.

27. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

rotating said basketball backboard assembly to a position for at least one of outdoor use and indoor use.

28. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

at least one of deploying the backboard in an upright position, unfolding the backboard, retracting the backboard to a storage position, and unfolding the backboard.

29. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

actuating at least one of the deployment and the storage of said basketball backboard and hoop assembly.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A basketball backboard and hoop apparatus, including a basketball backboard and hoop assembly, a mounting device for mounting the apparatus to an interior of a structure, a support device rotatably connected to the mounting device and connected to the basketball backboard and hoop assembly. The basketball backboard and hoop assembly is rotatable from a first position, whereat the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is stored inside the structure, to a second position, whereat the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is deployed for use outside the structure. A method for utilizing basketball backboard and hoop assembly, including rotating a basketball backboard and hoop assembly from a stored position inside a structure through an aperture, and deploying the basketball backboard and hoop assembly for use outside of the structure.

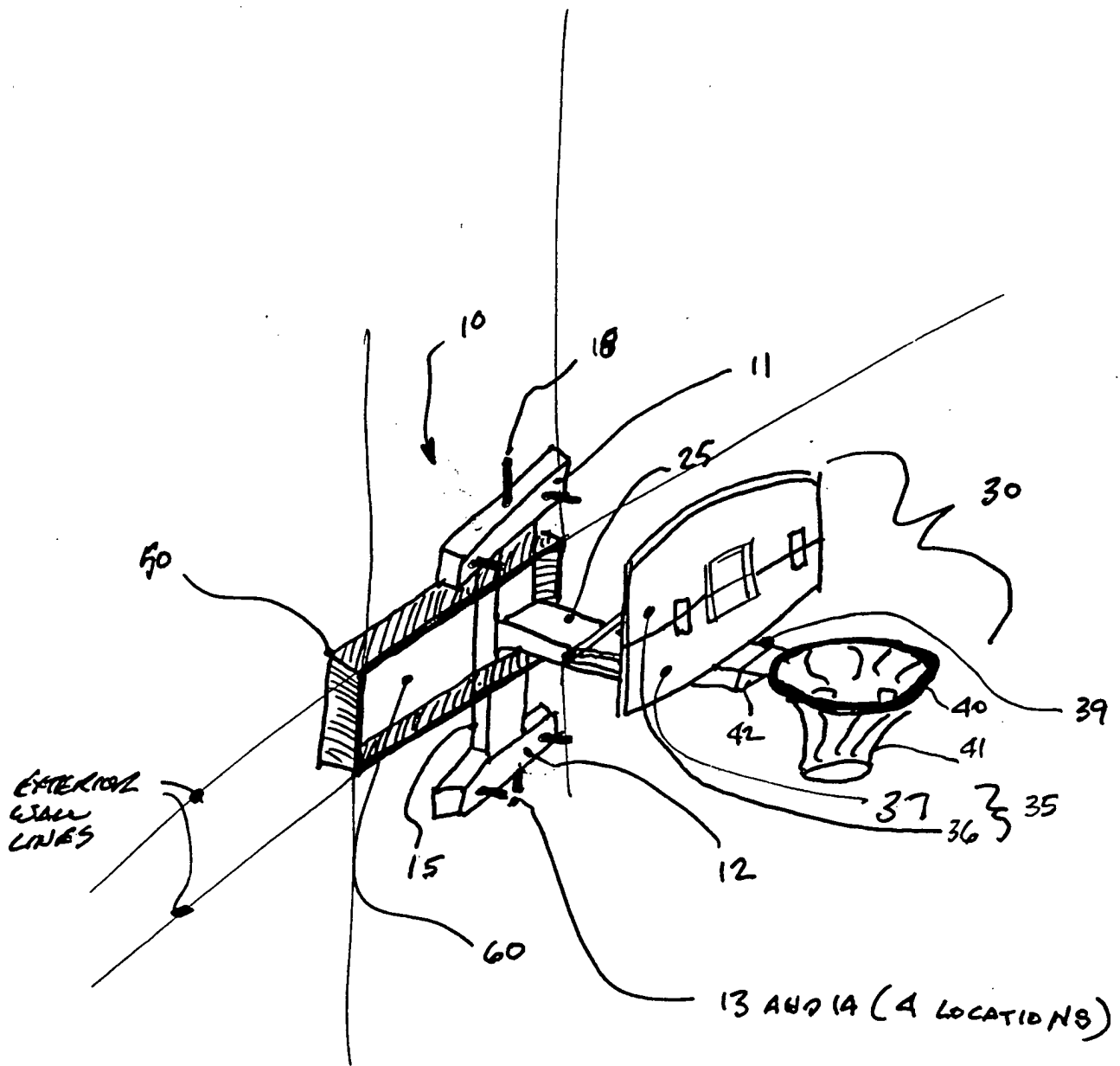
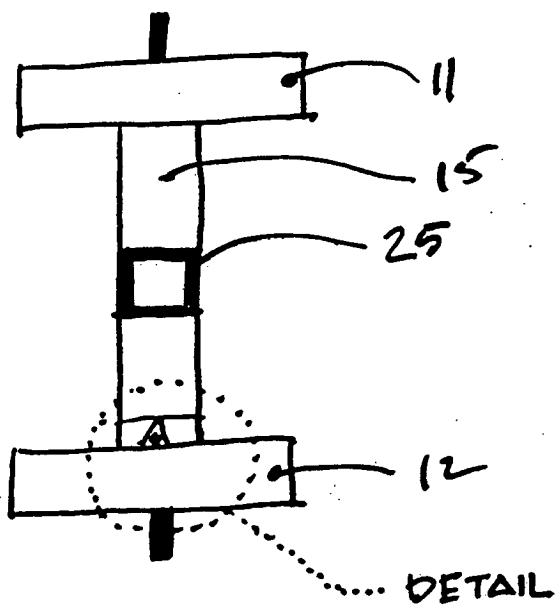
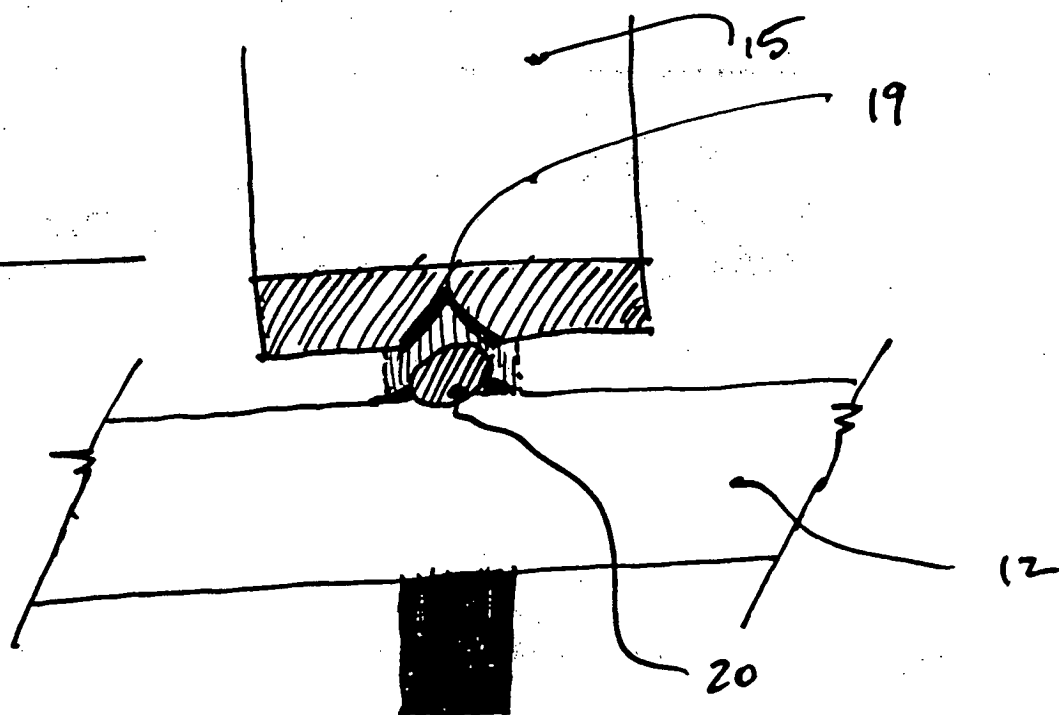


FIGURE 1 APPARATUS 100

FIGURE 2



DETAIL



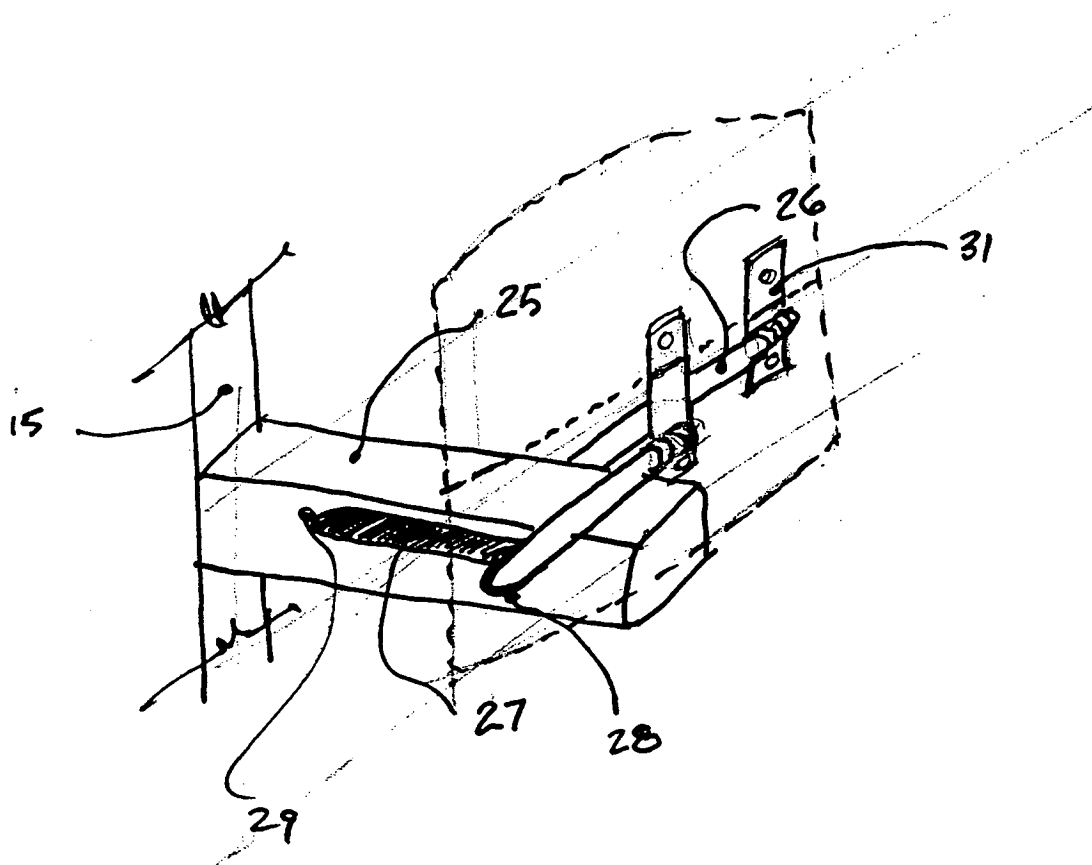


FIGURE 3 - SUPPORT ARM

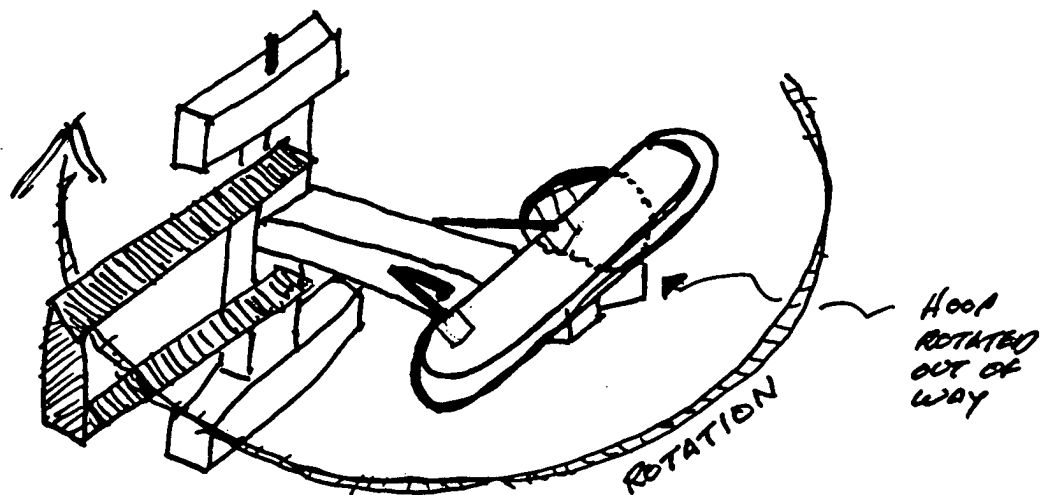


FIGURE 4 - STORED POSITION

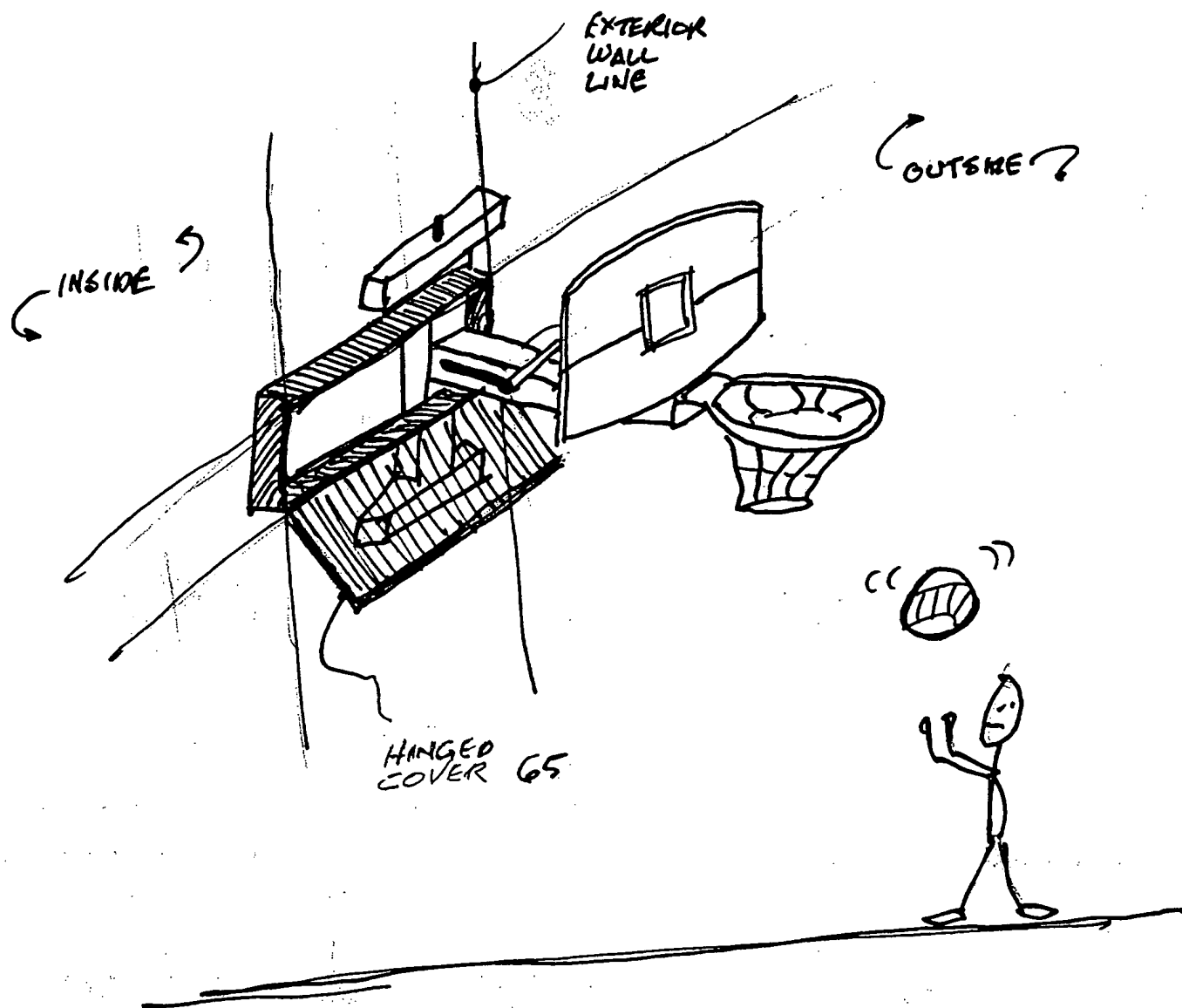


FIGURE 5- FULLY DEPLOYED FOR OUTDOOR PLAY

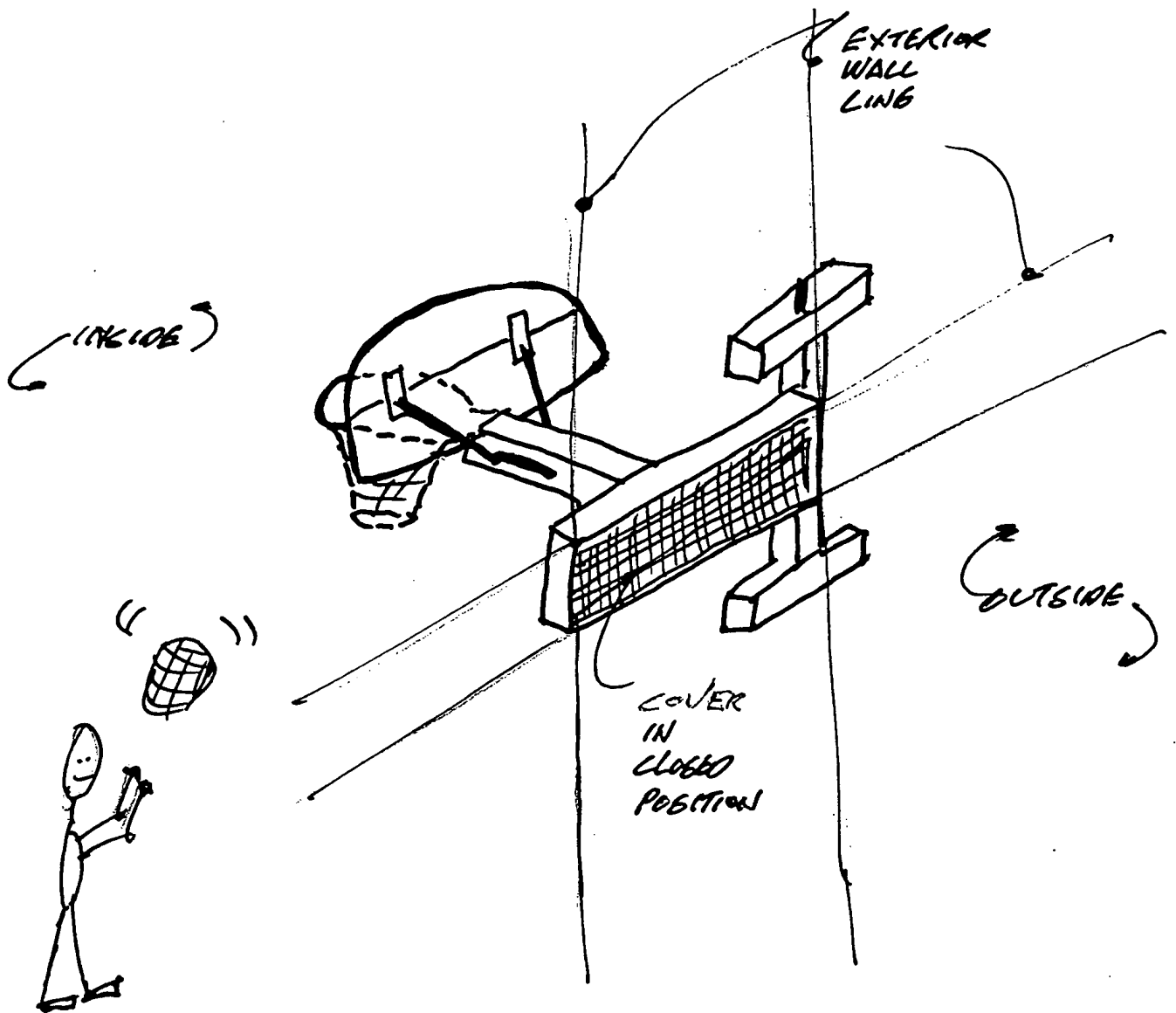


FIGURE 6- SHOWING INDOOR PLAY

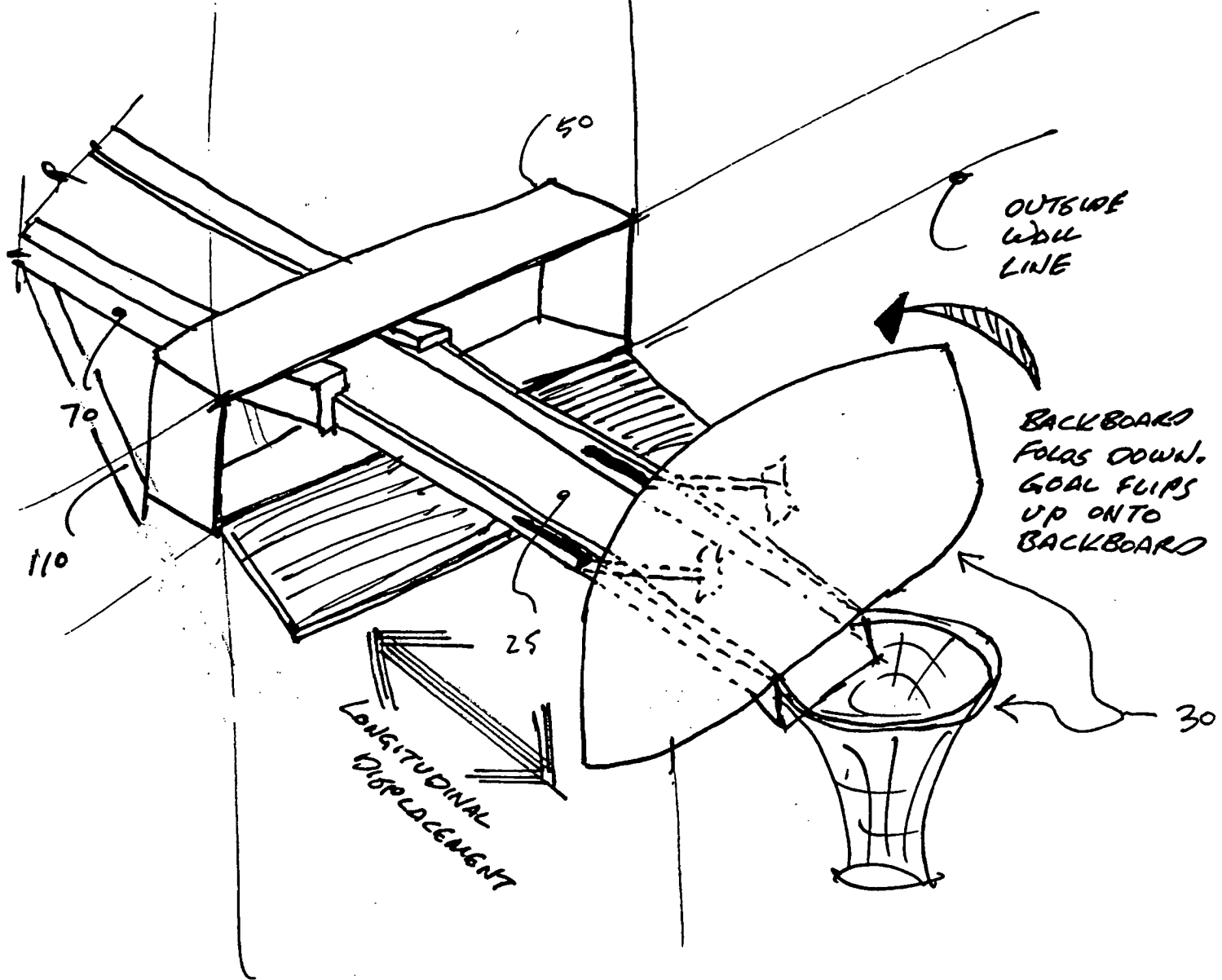


FIGURE 7 - LONGITUDINAL DISPLACEMENT - GUIDE RAIL

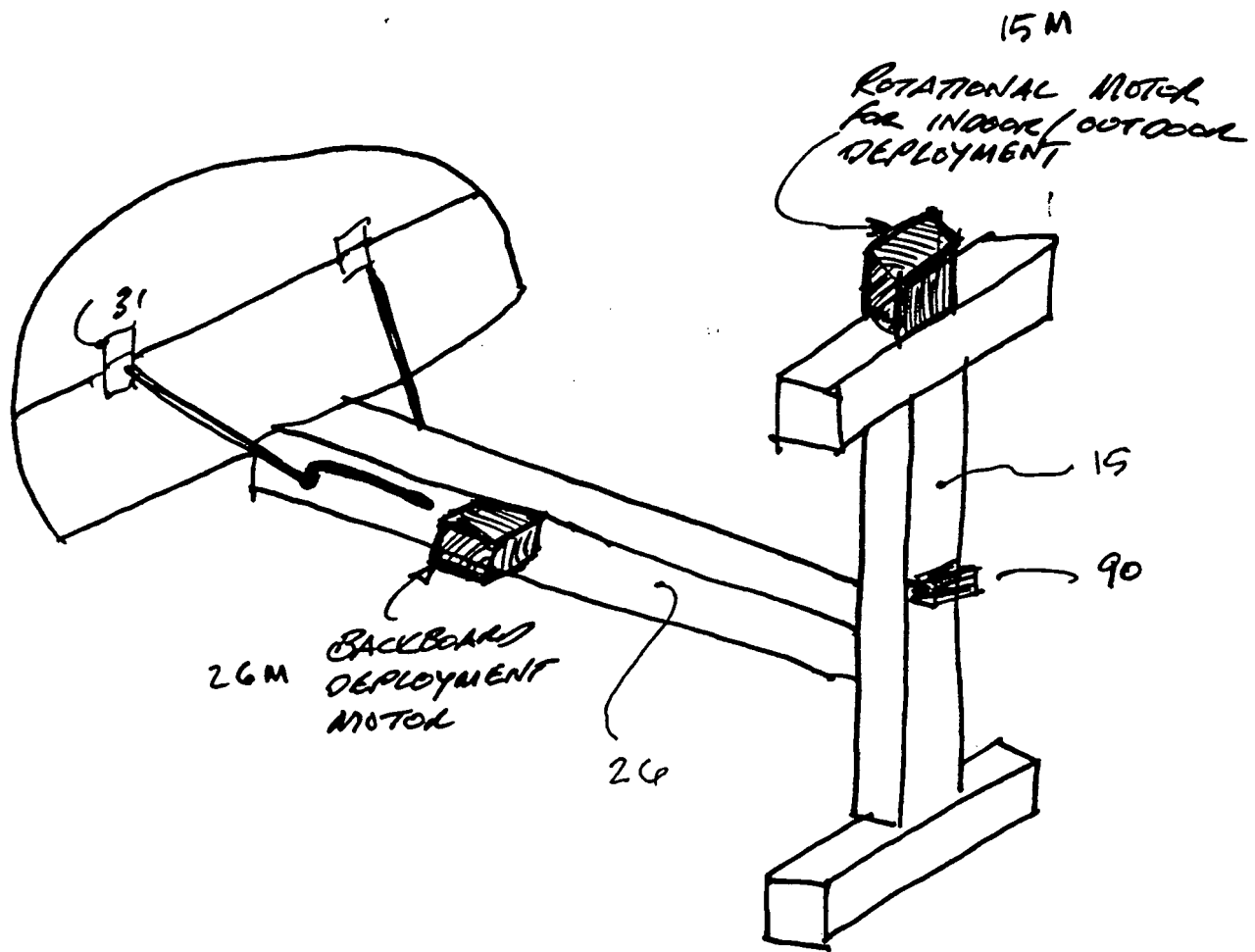


FIGURE 8 - MOTOR EQUIPED

EXHIBIT

G

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
60/190,381	03/17/2000		75	6379-1	8		

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Date Mailed: 05/16/2000

Receipt is acknowledged of this provisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the PTO processes the reply to the Notice, the PTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Delbert Clarke Pile, Hadley, NY ;

Continuing Data as Claimed by Applicant**Foreign Applications**

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**** SMALL ENTITY ******Title**

Apparatus and method for a retractable basketball backboard and hoop assembly

Preliminary Class

Data entry by : SMALLS, DONNA

Team : OIPE

Date: 05/16/2000



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May 25, 2000

Mr. Clarke Pile
560 West 43rd Street
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Re: Provisional Patent Application
Inventor : Delbert Clarke Pile
Entitled : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR A
RETRACTABLE BASKETBALL
BACKBOARD AND HOOP ASSEMBLY
Filed : March 17, 2000
Serial No. : 60/190,381
Our Reference No. : 6379-1

Dear Mr. Pile:

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MELTZER, LIPPE, GOLDSTEIN
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Nicole Eliseo-Pinou

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